

Industrial Worker

JUNE 1999

#1622, vol. 96 no. 6 \$1.00/75p

EDUCATION

ORGANIZATION

EMANCIPATION

Madison, WI Earth Day to May Day

"Schools Not Jails!"

"What Day Is It! May Day!"

"People's Budget We Demand! Time To
Stop Their Corporate Plan!"

May 1, 1999

Against the Corporate Budget

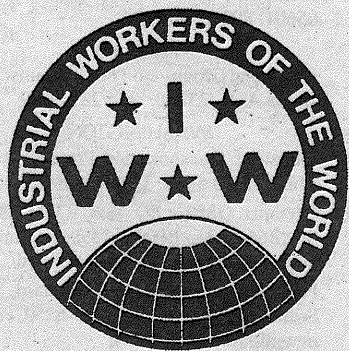
Over 500 people, including members of the Madison GMB, rallied and marched in Madison, Wisconsin in recognition of May Day and in protest of the proposed WI State Budget. Representatives from student, health, labor, environmental, civil rights, and community organizations spoke to the crowd at three rally points - The first at the State Capitol, the second at Peace Park on State Street, and the third on the front lawn of the landlord and University of Wisconsin Regent Fred Mohs.

The crowd, a coming together of people from all over Wisconsin, as well as some people from an earlier "Worthy Wages for Childcare Workers" rally, joined together in refrains of "Solidarity Forever" and the "International". Folks from Eau Claire, La Crosse, Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids, Menomonee (city, not county), Milwaukee, Madison, and Whitewater were visible in their signs and presence.

This was the largest May Day demonstration in Madison in years - the last large May Day demo took place in 1995, again, then, in protest of the State Budget. In 1995, some 1000 people marched on the offices of Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce and set its marquee on fire.

The demonstration this year was organized by a subcommittee of the WI Earth Day to May Day Coalition, a coming together of over 60 labor, student, and community organizations. Other Earth Day to May Day events in Wisconsin were also very successful, and involved thousands of people.

continued on page 7



In This Issue:

International G8 Protests

IWW McDonald's

Organizing

Labor Notes Conference

AFL-CIO & Republicans

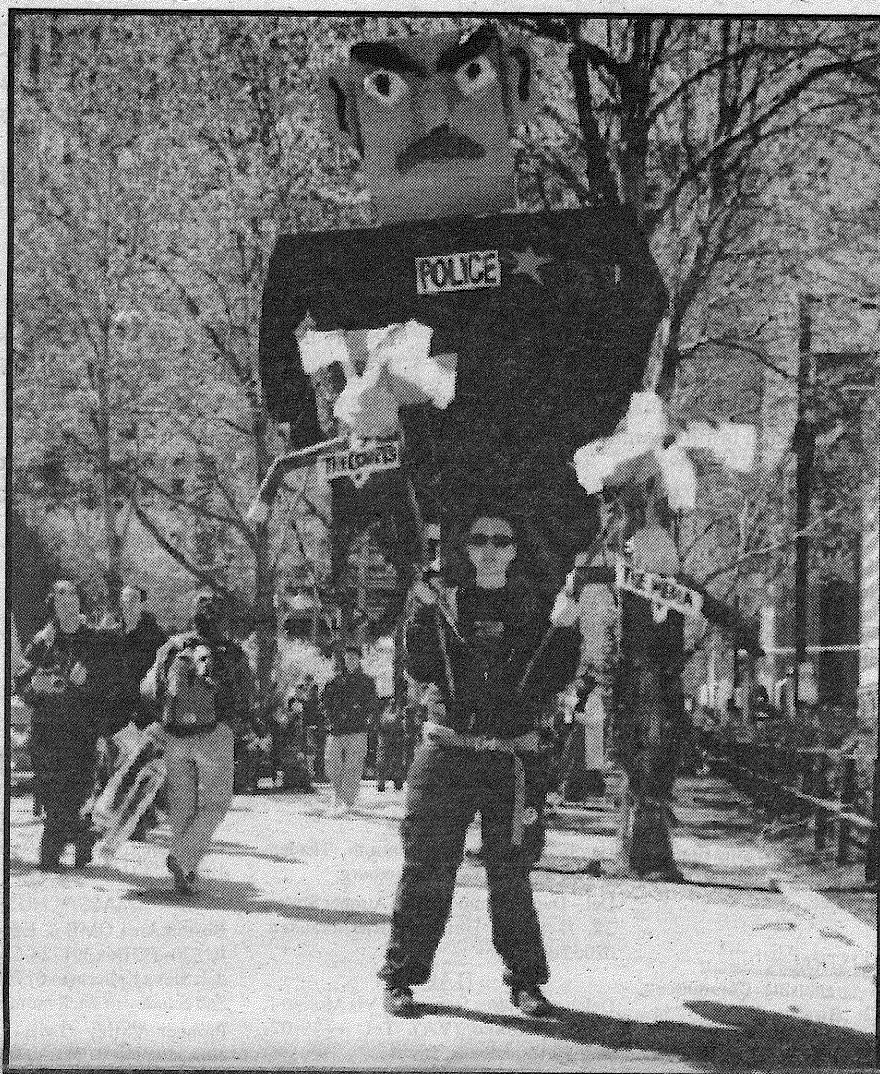
May Day at the Pentagon

Peru On Strike



\$1.75 pence UK

Millions For Mumia Engages Wobblies & Labor



SW Breeze of the Washington, DC GMB displays a ravenous cop puppet in Philadelphia

On Saturday, April 24 a day of action had been planned in solidarity with class war/political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal who has been on death row in the state of Pennsylvania since 1982. Tens of thousands of people in both Philadelphia and San Francisco spoke out, marched, stopped work and protested against the racist and morally bankrupt judicial system which enabled Mumia to be imprisoned in the first place, as well as for the release of Mumia and the hundreds of other political prisoners in the United States. Wobblies added their voices and numbers to the din of those who proclaimed, "Brick by brick! Wall by wall! We're gonna Free! Mumia! Abu! Jamal!"

On the west coast of the United States and Canada, ILWU rank and filers spoke out through their democratically elected Caucus delegates and declared they would "stop work" on the 24th of April in solidarity with Mumia. Messages of international dockworkers' solidarity with this action came from Liverpool, Sweden, Denmark, Cyprus, Finland, Japan and from the 10,000 member teachers' union in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil which struck for two hours on Friday the 23rd calling for Mumia's freedom.

Not to diminish the power and meaning of this act of solidarity, it should be mentioned that the plans for the "work stoppage" had been made clear to the companies, so it was not as if the stoppage was a surprise. The companies rescheduled and boats sat in the harbor for a day. According to the ILWU contract, (like most other contracts in the U.S.), an unannounced, "wildcat" work stoppage would be in violation and thusly "illegal."

In San Francisco, the "Millions For Mumia" march began in Dolores Park in the working class Mission district. Thousands of union members, political and coalition groups, and individuals gathered to celebrate Mumia's birthday and to hear rousing attacks against the hypocrisy of an obso-

lete and racist legal system. Art & Revolution performed their drama "Tear Down the Prison Walls" featuring a 3 story tall Mumia being liberated by the participating crowd. Then the crowd took the streets.

The ILWU lead the march and Wobblies from San Francisco, East Bay, San Jose, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, Eureka, Olympia and Seattle followed with black and red banners.

The police kept a low profile during the procession. The city knew that the march was about them as much as it was about Mumia and the Death Penalty. At one point, as Haight Street crests with Fillmore, the all too familiar scene of white cops arresting two Latino men enraged several people to the point of an unarrest situation, leaving the officers beaten and with broken car windows. The SFPD reinforcements arrived swiftly, but too slow for the advancing marchers.

The final rally packed the San Francisco Civic Center. As groups set up information tables and presented speakers giving support to all political and class war prisoners, an unmarked helicopter flew above the crowd dropping flowers.

Some 20,000 people enjoyed the sun and

continued on page 3

San Francisco Recycling Resource Center Goes IWW to Confront Crisis

The student employees of the Recycling Resource Center have joined the Industrial Workers of the World Union to ensure that the Recycling Resource Center maintain its status as a student operated collective with a commitment to the environment.

The existence of the Recycling Resource Center as a student run collective is being threatened. On September 14, 1998, the Director of Campus Cleaning Services came to the Recycling Resource Center general meeting to inform the student employees that the Recycling Resource Center was now under the control of Campus Cleaning Services. The Recycling Resource Coordinator (only full time/non-student staff at the Center) stated that part of the reason for this changeover was to phase out students as collectors of recycling and have janitors do this work alongside of their nightly garbage collection, while a few students would remain as coordinators. While she assured the student employees of the Recycling Resource Center that their jobs were not at stake, the student workers were and remain threatened by the possibility of ending student collection of recycling for several reasons. First, the decisions to place the Recycling Resource Center under Custodial Services and potentially end student collection were not made democratically with the student workers, yet these decisions have far reaching effects on the student employees and the Recycling Resource Center. The student employees have shown that they are capable of, and committed to, making decisions democratically on issues pertaining to recycling and waste reduction. The Recycling Resource Center was conceived of, and started, in 1987 by students and continues today as a student run operation as the IWW-Industrial Union 620 of the Education Workers, Recycling Resource Center. The majority of student workers (20 of the 23) are opposed to ending student collection of recycling.

Another reason the student workers are against ending student collection is the amount of visibility their work brings to recycling issues. Through the collection of recycling from campus offices during office hours, the student workers do most of the outreach on recycling and waste reduction. This outreach is critical to waste reduction. The San Francisco State University campus is still discarding many recyclable and/or useable materials into the garbage. The SFSU campus threw out over half a ton of garbage from the Administration building alone in a one-week time—798 pounds of which was recyclable. Since the California Integrated Waste Management Act requires the city of San Francisco to recycle 59% of

continued on page 6

INDUSTRIAL WORKER
103 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

ISSN 0019-8870



Periodicals Postage
PAID

Ypsilanti, MI
and additional
mailing offices

STOP HARASSMENT OF POSTAL WORKERS!
Address correction requested

To the IWW,

I am from the South Side of Chicago. About a year and a half ago, I remember reading somewhere about a Borders bookstore on the north side where all the employees went IWW. My grandfather was a union organizer in the North Dakota lumber woods when that meant hiding in the trees with rifles and shooting at scabs; so I heard stories about the IWW growing up. Now that I have been going to school; I have been reading about the IWW in the library. You are 100% right when you say that "the working class and the employing class have nothing in common."

Growing up, I never really thought about college. I dropped out of high school in order to work when I was sixteen. I had a construction job in South Shore for about a year. It wasn't union and didn't really pay; so I went back to high school, and I got a job in a restaurant downtown, which paid better. I took the SAT and the ACT tests because I figured it wouldn't hurt. All of a sudden, colleges were calling me, offering me deals! It seemed like a great opportunity, so I came here to school, expecting to find a bunch of really smart kids who read a lot of books and had intelligent conversations about ideas.

In fact, about 99% of the students here are nothing but spoiled rich kids, with no respect for ideas or anything else. I hate to say

Readers' Soapbox

it, but it's true. Most of the students here are aristocratic snobs.

I have met a handful of people around here who actually think, though, and have come away from many of our conversations more convinced than ever that the capitalist system is the number one cause of problems in the world today. As long as it exists, it will be an insult to human dignity.

This University is less of an institution of learning than it is a training ground for the middle class. Everything I have actually learned here, I have gained from reading on my own in the library or from free discussion with other thinking individuals.

To put it bluntly, I am getting sick of this bourgeois crap. I feel a little guilty because a lot of people would say that this is a great opportunity. The economic bait looks nice, but I don't know if I want that capitalist hook through my mouth. I want to be able to take care of a family someday, but not by selling out!

I am going back to Chicago in a few weeks and am going back to my old restaurant job. I would like to subscribe to your newspaper and am also interested in any information you could send me or refer me to about how to organize. It's going to be

hard because my manager is under orders from corporate headquarters to fire anyone who ever mentions the word "union." If we "keep it on the DL," though, we might be able to get a lot of people together, and then they'd have to think twice before firing all of us. At any rate, I want to talk to my friends about your ideas and maybe show them some of your literature. Any working person in Chicago who takes a quick look around can see how wrong the capitalist system is. We all need to get together to fight it.

I highly respect your union and look forward to hearing from you.

Anonymous.

Dear Industrial Worker,

I really liked the article on how to form a labor union on the job in the April issue. This is why I joined the IWW. I would like it if you could provide reprints of articles like this for the purpose of getting people to understand the difference between trade and industrial unions.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Crocker

To IWW,

Just read a lot of the May issue last night. Well done IW Collective!

It's great that you're taking chances with differing opinions—letters etc. Fred's column was great and yay, Alexis was back as well as CC Redcloud. I'm going to check on that book about surrealist women. Yada, yada—keep on keepin' on. I gave one to a SLAC person and another to one of the nicer SEIU union reps at last nights worker/student solidarity rally.

FTW, Mike B.

Hi Detroit Collective,

I like the May issue, and showed it to 3 co-workers who asked to keep it over night. That means they read it. They said that they would want to contribute to a paper like this and that it's not the usual boring labor paper.

I agree with the Wob who said they appreciate larger print. I'm in the "Over 30" (way over) age bracket. When we don't wear our glasses, we have to squint or hold the paper 3 feet out. Also I would like to see less space given to the Wobs who have only bad things to say about the paper and about the collective. They can put their comments into the GOB. Why not give more space to Wobs who have something to teach.

Thanks for your work-
Barbara Sands
Albany NYUSA

IU 120: Lumber Workers
IU 330: Building Construction Workers
IU 450: Print & Publishing House Workers
IU 460: Food Processing Workers
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers
IU 560: Communications Workers
IU 610: Health Service Workers
IU 620: Education Workers
IU 630: Entertainment Workers
IU 640: Restaurant & Hotel Workers
IU 660: General Distribution Workers
IU 670: Public Service Workers

Industrial Worker

**THE VOICE OF
REVOLUTIONARY
INDUSTRIAL
UNIONISM**

Industrial Workers of the World
103 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197 USA
734/483-3548 ghq@iww.org

General Secretary-Treasurer:
Fred Chase

General Executive Board:
Monica Berini, Dennis Georg,
Robert Helms, Morgan Miller,
John Persak, Penny Pixler,
Bob Rivera

Articles should be submitted to:
Industrial Worker
3570 W. Vernor
Detroit, MI 48216 USA
ghq@iww.org

Printed by union labor
Web: <http://parsons.iww.org/~iw/>

Official monthly publication of
the Industrial Workers of the
World

ISSN 0019-8870 Periodicals
Postage Paid Ypsilanti MI &
other mailing offices.

Postmaster: send address
changes to Industrial Worker,
103 West Michigan,
Ypsilanti MI 48197.

Individual Subscriptions \$15
Library Subscriptions \$20/year
(Member sub included in dues)
Articles not so designated do not
represent the official position of the
IWW. Donations welcome.
Press Date: April 13, 1999

Job Branch= 5 or more members in workplace; GMB=General Membership Branch; IU=Industrial Union; Del=Delegate; GOC=Organizing Committee.

AUSTRALIA

IWW Regional Organising Committee—
P.O. Box 152, Birdwood, SA 5234.
roc@iww.org.au <http://www.iww.org.au>

NEW SOUTH WALES

Bellingen— PO Box 78, NSW 2454.
Sydney— PO Box 241, Surry Hills, NSW 2010.

QUEENSLAND

Brisbane GMB - PO Box 5734, West End,
Qld 4101 - gmb@brisbane.iww.org.au

TASMANIA

Del— Bill Bartlett, 27 Emma St, Bracknell,
Tas 7250. billbartlett@vision.net.au

VICTORIA

Melbourne GMB— PO Box 145, Moreland 3058, Vic, melbourne@iww.org.au. Delegates: Margaret Creagh, margaret@iww.org.au; Zelda Da: zd@xchange.anarki.net; Ben Debney: ben@iww.org.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Del— Mike Payne, Quininnup WA 6258.

BRITISH ISLES

IWW Regional Organising Committee— 75
Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 4WB, tel
no 0116-266-1835. For contacts throughout the British Isles write or phone this office.

ENGLAND

Swindon Region GMB & Research Councils
IU 620 group— del: Kevin Brandstatter,
9 Omdurman Street, Swindon SN2 1HA,
01793-610707

Pioneer Co-operative Retail Society Job
Branch and General Distribution Workers
IU 660— GDWU, PO Box 3469,
Bournemouth BH5 2ZD.

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh District Industrial Council— Box
12665, Edinburgh EH3 9YA

CANADA

- ALBERTA

Edmonton GMB— PO Box 1075, phone:
403/988-3022.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Victoria GMB— P.O. Box 8283, V8W 3R9
pager: 250/360-9803. vicwob@hotmail.com

MANITOBA

Winnipeg GMB— B. Mackay, PO Box 3204,
GNPO, R3C 4E7.

ONTARIO

Ottawa GMB— 388 1/2 Kent, K2P 2A9.
613/231-2922. bh295@freenet.carleton.ca
Toronto GMB— del: Joe Chang, 137
Roncesvalles Suite 208, M6R 2L2 416/
539-0780. Meets 1st Thurs 7 pm.

IU 670 Toronto Action for Social Change—
P.O. Box 73620, 509 St. Clair Ave. West,
M6C 1C0. 416/651-5800. burch@web.net

I.W.W. DIRECTORY

GERMANY

Hamburg IWW— c/o Zentrum, Thaden-
strasse 118, D-22 767 Hamburg.
Del.— Daniel Zimmermann, Atroper Strasse
22, D-47226 Duisburg-Rheinhausen.
02065-56 446

ITALY

Delegato Andrea Benetton— Via Molino 1,
21047 Saronno (VA). Tel. ++39-02-
96709372. andbene@tin.it

POLAND

IWW Polska— PO BOX 47, 04-520
Warszawa 106

UNITED STATES

ARIZONA

Desert Tortoise GMB— c/o Feral Press,
P.O. Box 1212, Tucson 85702.

CALIFORNIA

Humboldt County IWW Group— PO Box
3503, Eureka 95502. 707/441-3819.
Los Angeles GMB— Meets first Sunday
each month. P.O. Box 716024, Los Angeles,
CA 90071.

Mendocino County— Bill Meyers. del., PO
Box 1581, Gualala 95445.

Monterey— Ray Brown, IU 330 delegate,
1231 4th St., 93940. 831/333-9803.
Santa Cruz GMB— PO Box 534, 95061.
phone: 831/427-5566.

San Francisco GMB— PO Box 40485, S.F.
94140. office: Redstone Building, 2940
16th St. (at Capp) #216-2, S.F. 94103. 415/
863-WOBS. staff@iww.org

San Francisco Bay Ports Marine Transport
Workers IU 510 Branch— PO Box 194163,
Ricon Hill Station, SF 94114-4163.

East Bay GMB and IU 670 Berkeley Recycling
Center Job Branch: 2022 Blake St.,
Berkeley 94704, 510/845-0540. Meets
Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.

IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop— 1921
Ashby, Berkeley 94703 510/549-0176

COLORADO

IU450 P&L Printing Job Shop— 2298 Clay,
Denver 80211. 303/433-1852

FLORIDA

Gainesville GMB— c/o CMC, 1021 W.
University Ave., 32601.

GEORGIA

Metro Atlanta GMB— PO Box 80405,
Chamblee 30366. 404/746-7956

HAWAII

O'ahu GMB— wilcox@hawaii.edu

ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB— 1340 W Irving Park Road
#287 60613. 773/549-5045. Meets 2nd Friday
7 pm (call for location).

KANSAS

Lawrence GMB— PO Box 176, 66044.

KENTUCKY

Louisville— 502/451-3459

LOUISIANA

Restaurant Workers IU 640— PO Box 7927,
Metairie 70010. apple@iww.org

MARYLAND

Baltimore GMB— Del. Rafi Bey, P.O. Box
18637, 21216-0637. 410/367-3024

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Area GMB & Education Workers
IU 620— PO Box 391724, Cambridge 02139.
del: Steve Kellerman 617/469-5162 Meets
2nd Sunday of each month at 5 p.m.

Pioneer Valley GMB— PO Box 154,
Northampton 01061, del: Mike D'Amore
413/549-1143. e-mail: pviww@iww.org

MICHIGAN

Huron Valley GMB— 103 W. Michigan
Ave., Ypsilanti 48197. 313/483-3548
Detroit GMB— PO Box 44558, 48232-9995.
313/891-7895

MINNESOTA

Duluth GMB— c/o Laverne Capan, 1522 N.
8th Ave. E., 55805-1115.

Minneapolis-St. Paul GMB— 1708 E. 26th
St., 55404. Dels. Sam Adams 612/724-
9158, Andy Gifford 870-9168, Don Kurth
869-4139.

MISSOURI

St. Louis GMB— PO Box 63211, 63163.
Del: Tim Dunn, 314/645-4317.

MONTANA

Butte— Mark Ross, PO Box 233, 59703.
406/782-4465. IU 330 Del: Dennis George,
dengeo@montana.com

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque— Del: Peter Kalberer, 2300
Central Ave. S.E. Box 122, 87106. 505/
924-2137, peterkal@ix.netcom.com

NEW YORK

Upstate New York Regional GMB— POB
74, Altamont 12009. 518/861-5627.

IU450 Coordinator— Nicholas Patti, 180
Washington Ave. #304, Albany 12210. 518/
426-0528. pattin@sage.edu

NYC GMB— Del: R. Singer, P.O. Box 752,
Planetarium Station, New York, NY 10024
Long Island GMB, POB 7152, Garden City
11530, liiww@aao.net 516/741-0661 516/
834-9745 (LI 'Strike Watch').

IU 670 Socialist Party Nat'l Office Job
Shop: Socialist Party USA, 339 LaFayette
St., New York, NY 10012, (212) 982-
4586.

Rochelle Semel, Del., RD 1 Box 158-B,
Hartwick, NY 13328. (607) 293-6489.
Rochester— Del: Ric Garren, 716/385-6681.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro— Dave Coker, del., POB 10093,
27404. 910/574-2905 davecoker@usa.net

OHIO

Cincinnati— Mark Damron, del., PO Box
42233, 45242.

OREGON

Eugene GMB— c/o Rick George, 1840 W.
10th Ave., 97402 email: rickg@efn.org
Portland Building Construction Workers
IU 330 Branch— POB 33674, 97292.

Portland GMB— POB 15005, 97293-5005.
email: mmiller@orednet.org 503/650-7187

PENNSYLVANIA

Lehigh Valley GMB— c/o Trish D'Amore,
655 N. Irving St., Allentown 18103-2063.
610/434-0218

Lancaster GMB: PO Box 796, 17608.
lancaster@jones.iww.org <http://jones.iww.org/lancaster/>

Philadelphia GMB— 4722 Baltimore Ave.
19143. phillyiww@iww.org Meets third
Sundays, 4:00pm, at A Space, 4722 Baltimore
Ave. Del: Alexis Buss 215/724-1925

RHODE ISLAND

Providence— M. Araujo, delegate, 68 Dexter
St. 02909

SOUTH CAROLINA

IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop—
Meril Truesdale, del., P.O. Box 8325, Columbia
29202-8325.

TENNESSEE

Mother Jones GMB— c/o Dennis Henke,
787 Ellsworth, Memphis 38111 901/458-
9907.

TEXAS

Lucy Parsons GMB— c/o Joshua Freeze,
3202 Cherrywood Rd., Austin 78722. 512/
477-2957. devries@mail.utexas.edu

VERMONT

Montpelier— Bob Heald, del., PO Box 1285
05601. 802/229-1719

VIRGINIA

Richmond Group— c/o Tom Williams. 2404
Boyle Ave. 23230. 804/285-3699

WASHINGTON

Industrial Transportation Project— Arthur
Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464

Olympia GMB— PO Box 2775, 98507.
360/866-1473. blacknred@earthlink.net
<http://home.earthlink.net/blacknred/>

Puget Sound GMB— 5215 Ballard, NW,
Seattle, WA 98115. (206) 706-6250. email:
iwwjmp@speakeasy.org

General Defense Committee— P.O. Box
16716, Seattle WA 98116 (206) 935-2756

WASHINGTON, DC

Ground Zero GMB, P.O. Box 1187,
Washington, DC 20013-1187,
1.202.215.2065, email: dciiwhotmail.com

WISCONSIN

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop— 1334
Williamson, Madison 53703 608/255-1800.
Madison GMB— c/ Lakeside Del: Jerry
Chernow

La Crosse Group— P.O. Box 2761, La Crosse
54602-2761. iwwlax@hotmail.com 608/
791-0585.

WYOMING

Jackson— Teton Jack Langan, del., POB
4056, 83001. 307/733-4553

Minneapolis St. Paul GMB

The fight continues to block the reroute of Highway 55 in Minneapolis. The New Jersey based firm of Louis Berger & Associates declared that the land which Native American leaders in the area have declared as sacred burial sites contain "No burial sites and no historical spiritual significance." Native American group contend that the firm can take as many tin can samples as they like, but the struggle will continue and will not be thwarted by bureaucratic bull.

Seven people who were arrested at the "Free State," including Wobbly Sam Adams, were heard in court. Three pleaded guilty and were given a 30 days stayed sentence which expires in January 2000. FW Sam Adams and 3 others had their cases postponed until a later date.

Organizing contacts in some local coops are continuing to reach out to the IWW for information and support.

FW Bob Greenberg, an admitted supporter and member of the Biotic Baking Brigade, is facing charges for pieing Minnesota State Senator Carol Flynn. Ms. Flynn is responsible for striking legislation on the Transportation Committee designed to protect the Camp Coldwater site.

Rochester, NY

Our Rochester Wobbly reported on a well-attended Workers' Memorial Celebration on April 28 as well as a new display in the window of an abandoned department store in downtown Rochester, NY commemorating the life and work of Emma Goldman.

Upstate New York Regional GMB

The Upstate New York Branch has been continuing their involvement in several months of info picketing outside of Wal Mart stores on the issue of sweat shop labor and goods. The branch has also set up a

committee concerned with Welfare/Workfare organizing issues (discussion is continuing regarding the experiences of a worker "whistle blower" and their experiences with a Workfare organization). More information on this will be arriving in the future.

Two Upstate GMB Wobblies have radio shows on a local community-based Low Power FM station, WRPI at 91.5 FM. Peggy Rockwell's show "Affirmative Actions" deals with Women's Issues and Greg Giorgio's show on Labor Issues can both also be heard live on the internet at www.wrpi.org on selected Thursday mornings at 8am.

LaCrosse, Wisconsin Group

The LaCrosse Group is continuing their weekly protests against the War in Yugoslavia and Sanctions in Iraq. The actions occur outside the LaCrosse post office at 4:15pm every Monday.

Detroit

On April 24, many Detroit Wobblies joined a commemorative march in memory of Cesar Chavez. Hundreds were in attendance. Also, on April 28, about 100 workers, including 15 or more Wobblies, took part in the Workers Memorial Day march passing Mexican Industries and the Main Post Office on its route.

Organizing efforts continue at Hanna Transport Trucking Company and workers have begun working together to draft a contract and take a union vote. Some difficulties have occurred due to minor disagreements but a solution is taking shape. A vote ought to occur in a month or two.

Baltimore

Baltimore Wobs continue work on their community radio as well as setting things up to produce labor programming for a network of low power FM stations at other GMBs around the country. Their new office at 1443 Gorsuch Ave, Baltimore, MD 21218 has been hosting movie nights as well as organizing campaigns based around computer/construction/educational workers.

A small Steelworkers shop (about 100 workers) is on strike and inroads are being made to connect with them for possible picket line solidarity and other projects.

Solidarity work also continues on the ongoing Gardenburger boycott.

Wobblies in Baltimore attended the Millions for Mumia march in Philadelphia and have been working with Wobs in Philly/DC/Lancaster on GOB production.

Plans for a book on Sabotage Resistance in the workplace are in the works for a possible release this summer. The job shop consisting of workers at Black Planet Books continues.

Austin

Wobblies and 40 other union members and activists demon-

strated at the Austin Independent School District Board Meeting this month as part of a campaign with the Austin Living Wage Coalition. Almost 1,000 of the three thousand classified employees don't make what the coalition refers to as a living wage—\$9.09 per hour, the amount needed to adequately afford a one bedroom apartment in Austin on a forty hour work week. The Lucy Parsons GMB of the IWW was an early coalition member and local Wobblies have been volunteers and leaders in the struggle. Partly from Wobbly-urging, the coalition has adopted a strategy of organizing affected workers that aren't making a living

wage. Those workers, members of the Austin Federation of Teachers/Allied Educational Workers, spoke for themselves at the school board, both in chants before, and in testimony during, the meeting.

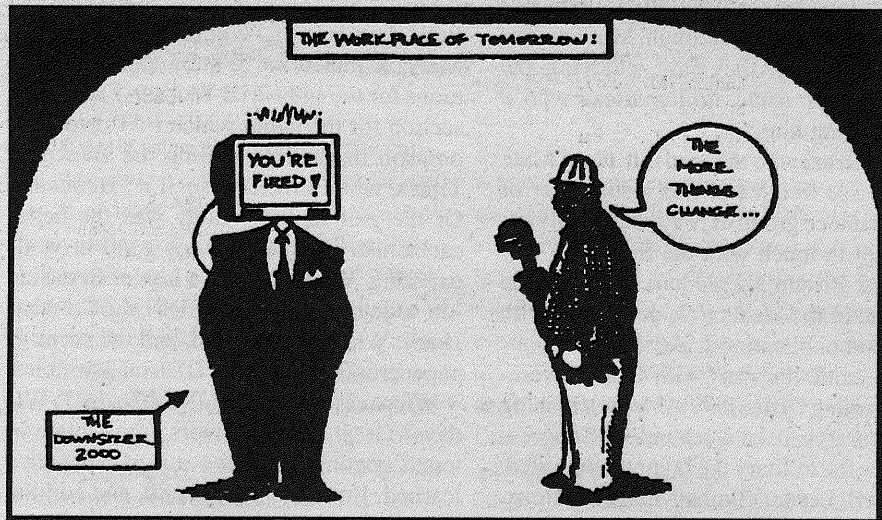
The Austin Living Wage Coalition is a diverse group of progressive unions and community organizations and is taking on different public sector campaigns to gain momentum for a city-wide living wage fight. Wobblies run phone banks, hold workshops and hit the streets for the living wage. Like Austin's Working Stiff Journal, the living wage campaign is another setting where local Wobs rub shoulders with progressive pie-cards and the rank-and-file. They're also a part of a noticeable upsurge of labor activity in this largely unorganized city where the AFT and the IBEW are considered progressive and aggressive organizing unions. Just this year the Central Labor Council finally created and organizing committee—with Wobbly membership. The Lucy Parsons GMB has also been busy building an office in a warehouse rented by other community organizations. Dual-carders have found themselves very busy in the University Staff Association and the Amalgamated Transit Union. And, of course, there is no shortage of bosses' wars to protest.

Solidarity from Austin, y'all.

John Hitzfelder

San Francisco, Bay Area

IWW Branches in the San Francisco and Bay Area gear up for the I-99 International Solidarity Conference coming up in June. Organizing efforts for the conference have been exhausting and continuing for the better part of a year with groups and individuals attending from Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americas. To register, or for information, contact <intl99@iww.org>, WWW:<http://www.iww.org/intl99>. You can also contact conference volunteers at 1.415.420.3194 from noon on May 31st through 5pm on June 5th, or at the San Francisco IWW at (415) 863-WOBS before that.



PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. **Between these two classes** a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." **It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism.** The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with the capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Millions For Mumia

continued from page 1

comaraderie, displaying unity and solidarity, while the powers that be and their hired personal wage slaves hid behind their office windows with a scowl of condemnation.

IW collective members travelled on one of the busses organized to go from Detroit to Philly for the other Millions for Mumia march and rally on the 24th. Organizers estimate that some 25,000 to 30,000 people representing many different groups filled the Philly streets for the afternoon. Delegations from Canada, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Latin America as well as 60 delegates from France were in attendance. Speakers included Pam Africa, Ramona Africa, Kathleen Cleaver (former Black Panther leader), Geronimo Pratt, Mazi Jamal (Mumia's son) and Robert Meripol (Ethel and Julius Rosenberg's son) among many others.

The march route ran through downtown, past the corner of 13th and Locust, where the incident took place in 1981 and then returned to the rally site at city hall. As thousands of protesters filled the streets, traffic was effectively blocked and business as usual was stopped as sidewalk gawkers watched in amazement at the manifestation of support for Mumia.

The crowd tried to get their message across to the people of Philadelphia through song, chanting, banners, puppets, costumes and theater. A Sister Worker from the D.C. GMB, Breeze, sported a trio of puppets

depicting the relationship between the police, the courts and the media. Another group did a dragon dance through the march with a colorful Chinese dragon whose sides were decorated with drawings of political prisoners. The Wobblies organized their own contingent and marched behind their banner followed by a spirited crew of anarchists waving black flags.

Upon returning to City Hall, the marchers rejoined the demonstration that had contin-

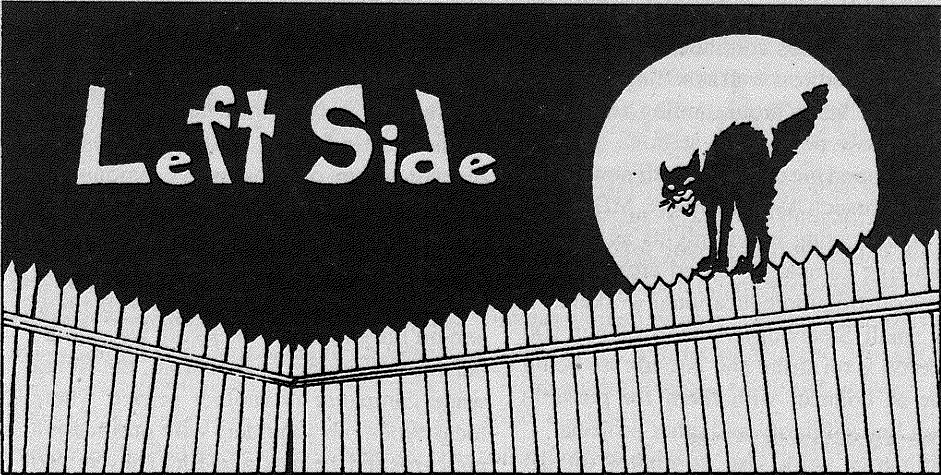


ued in their absence. The family members of former and current death row inmates then spoke to the assembled rally and described the conditions that those prisoners suffer.

At about 6 p.m. the rally disbursed and the people began to head back to the busses to head home. The rally felt like a success to those involved, but more pressure is needed.

Two actions are planned for this summer to keep up the pressure. On July 3 at noon in Philadelphia, supporters are being called to come and join in a mass civil disobedience action. On the following day, a huge legal procession will march to the Liberty Bell at noon. For more information, please call Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition 212.330.8029 or check out www.mumia.org

Info for article from Liam Flynn IU510, Rank and File ILWU Committee to Defend Mumia Abu-Jamal & Marie Mason.



The recent tragedy in Colorado has once more brought up the demand for stricter gun control measures by all the syndicated and professional hand-ringers, but, as has been mentioned in this column before, there can only be one sure gun control, and that is to stop making the damn things. The cynic may scoff at this suggestion as being unrealistically utopian. Your not-so-humble scribe contends that his proposal is within the realm of possibility.

Of course we are all realistic enough to know that such shall never be enacted by any governmental agency. It was Bakunin who said "War is the health of the state." How can wars be fought without guns and related implements of human destruction? How much nicer if the antagonists in Kosovo would be having a go at each other with baseball bats and sling shots. They might stop to think what the Hell's the use of all this? Our distant ancestors used to duke it out with spears and clubs, and they were a helluva lot more humane than our present military overlords.

Also, the gun making industry would not take kindly to my suggestion either. There is big profit in the selling of guns; otherwise, why would the gun manufacturers play on paranoia tendencies in their advertisements? The ever powerful National Rifle Association has its cronies in the halls of parliament passing favorable legislation for them. A State Senator from Arkansas, Stephen Simon, introduced a bill to allow "licensed" gun owners to bring their guns to church with them. Perhaps he is afraid of incursions by an army of Hari-Krishna evangelists.

One of the gun magazines promotes guns with photographs of nubile nude women toting angel-makers along with their physical attributes, which has something to say about the Yankee culture's mixing of sex and violence.

Upon achieving control of the machinery of production, a globally organized working class could stop the manufacture of that which is of no social value to humanity. After all, our distant forbears were able to supplement their carnivorous diets with bows and arrows as well as resolve any ethnic disagreements. The principle victims of gunfire have been the working class who are forced to shoot at each other by their economic overlords. A globally organized working class could also bring about the long overdue demise of the institution of the nation state which can only preserve itself by waging war while the ruling class keeps a safe distance from danger.

Our politicians and syndicated news media people blather about what is happening to our children, but what has gone wrong with our adults who are supposed to be the role models for future generations? It is the elders who bequeath upon the youth a history replete with wars and bloodshed. To go to far away places and shoot at and kill people you have never seen is called patriotism, but if you carry out the same with one person as a personal grudge; it is called murder. The end result in either case is the robbing of a life.

The recent phenomenon of "ethnic cleansing" is indeed despicable, but while Freedomland's top banana sheds copious tears over the treatment of ethnic Albanians by the Serbian government, not a peep comes from him when the Turkish government does the same thing to the Kurdish people, nor did he say anything about the Indonesian government slaughtering the East Timorese. Of course, Turkey has long been a favored nation in the eyes of the State Department, and many of Freedomland's corporations have heavy investments in Indonesia, which one can read as an explanation for such selective indignation.

The two leading lights of NATO, Freedomland and Merrie Olde England, need not point any fingers when it comes to ethnic cleansing as they both have a long and notorious history of that practice long before the term came into currency. Just ask any Cherokee, Lakota or Navajo.

As for the causes of the recent tragedy in Colorado, they are but the long festering social diseases that have been plaguing Freedomland for many years. Racism is but just one of the factors. The advertisements that bombard us over the popular mass media point out our inadequacies if we don't avail ourselves of a particular product which we are supposed to purchase. There is the constant iconization of sports heroes and those who are promoted as the pinnacles of success. There is a programmed alienation, of the youth by the general population. It is small wonder that there exists in our society a bubbling cauldron of frustration and resentment.

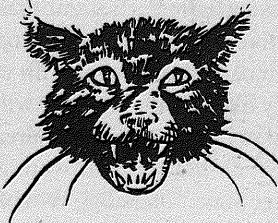
An alienated and unorganized population is exactly what a ruling class desires for that is easy for them to manipulate!

Draftees of the World, unite!
You have nothing to lose but your generals!

Get 'Em Sabo Kitties!!

Nicaraguan Protesters

Molotovs and kisses to the protesters in Nicaragua who are organizing a transport strike and fomenting popular unrest. They have raised blockades with paving stones, abandoned cars and busses on many major roadways to block passage of scabs and have virtually shut down business. Transportation operators want the price of diesel fuel reduced from about \$1.40 per liter to about \$1.00. The Nicaraguan government says it cannot lower the price because of its fiscal austerity obligations to the International Monetary Fund. Go figure, the IMF strikes again.



Grab a Brick! Strike Back!

Wobbling In & Out Of WWII

Last half of the 30's, and the North River in NY was a busy chunk of waterfront. NMU was busy signing them up, Wobs were shipping out of 510 and Sailors Union of the Pacific. F.W. Andy Nicholson drew five in Dannemora, and T-Bone Slim was probably captaining his barge someplace within hooting distance.

A pair of sleuths from some Washington agency dropped by to see Commander B.C. Edwards of Atlantic, Gulf and West Indies. I'd had a couple of tilts with the NMU deck delegate in Edward's office over whether or not NMU was really an industrial union, and I guess the fleet comander found it amusing. Anyway, when the beaks came through, I phoned an NMU contact to alert them. Checking back, I was told the two never made it as far as NMU headquarters, but had been found, slightly messed up, in the alley.

During a dispute over payment for port time, Edwards had worked out a neat scheme for not ringing Engines Down until some time after docking. Phoned that in to the hall, and the company came in last on that ploy.

There was a GRU hall in Manhattan, where I signed up. Peo Monoldi, the Secretary, said 510 was too tough for a kid like me, and signed me into 670. I was in the hall the day Billings came through. Mooney was a little too busy, they said, enjoying the hospitality of some millionairess who'd helped spring him.

F.W. Franz, who shipped out Third Mate on deep sea freighters, was a supporter of the Resistance group of NY, young activists who kept in touch with the Spanish CNT/FAI and Britain's Freedom Press. Some came out of the local circle connected with the Italian publication L'Adunata.

Then came the war, with U.S. Government Printing Office in Washington rushing to print draft cards a week before Congress had done the military the favor they wanted. F.W. Herb Leader climbed up on an imposing table and shouted, "Down presses! This is facism!" Herb did the rest of the war

picking apples and such.

After a few years of providing FBI agents with a tour of much scenery in the North-eastern U.S., thanks in part to the hospitality supplied by my Italian anarchist friends, I got scooped up for five, landing in minimum custody, a correctional services error which was "corrected" by shipping a dozen of us to maximum security jails across the country.

Somewhere along the way, Alex Lang and brother Chuck, whose family must have been part of the old Bermunkas group around Pittsburgh, got involved in organizing Church World Service in NY, where I worked as handyman. We did a lot of job-site action, insisted the church folks hire at least one guy who might not be any prize-winner in production, but could play guitar and sing. When we reached contract negotiations, the theological types wanted to play Big Papa. We told them, "Fatherhood belongs to God, and brotherhood belongs to

men. Now, sit down and negotiate."

First Person

Alex was in max custody a Northeastern

Pen, Lewisburg, where F.W. Whitey Matyzik joined us. Whitey and I did cartoons for the Industrial Worker. I also did a section for the paper which F.W. Fred Thompson insisted on calling the Buncomb Times, while I liked to spell it "Bunkum." Of the pair of us, Whitey was the better cartoonist. But he was not good at wall-papering. We tried to do a Lower East Side loft together in NY after leaving Crowbar Hotel. Whitey got tanked, and the strips of paper crossed each other at surrealist angles.

What was it like to be a Wob in the WWII days? Great. The survivors who remain in touch continue to make use of what they learned. I'm just a bit over 80, and edit the local Labor Council newsletter.

FW Clif Bennet

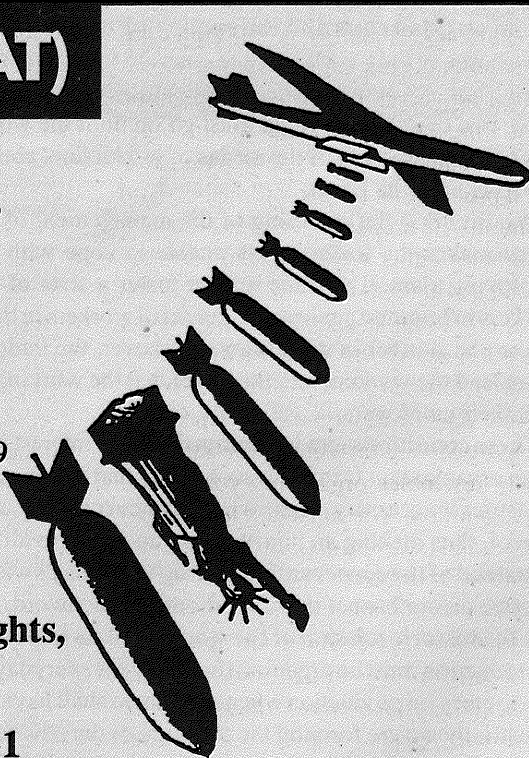
Quick Political Scholastic Aptitude Test (QPSAT)

This test consists of one (1) multiple-choice question (so you better get it right!) Here's a list of the countries that the U.S. has bombed since the end of World War II, compiled by historian William Blum:

China	1945-46	Congo	1964	Libya	1986
Korea	1950-53	Peru	1965	El Salvador	1980s
China	1950-53	Laos	1964-73	Nicaragua	1980s
Guatemala	1954	Vietnam	1961-73	Panama	1980s
Indoesia	1958	Cambodia	1969-70	Iraq	1991-99
Cuba	1959-60	Guatemala	1967-69	Sudan	1998
Guatemala	1960	Grenada	1983	Afghanistan	1998
				Yugoslavia	1999

In how many of these instances did a democratic government, respectful of human rights, occur as a result? Choose one of the following:

- (a). 0 (b). zero (c). none (d). not a one (e). a whole number between -1 and +1



The Rat Pack Attacks: Fight Back!

General Khin Nyunt & military juntas in Burma

Sometimes there are humans so evil that they attract darkness and destruction like black holes. Gen. Khin Nyunt is such a modern day Darth Vader. The military junta in Burma that Gen. Nyunt heads (ironically called the State Peace and Development Committee) has been accused, based on hundreds of first hand accounts and eyewitness reports, of enslaving thousands of Burmese people in conditions similar to the concentration camps of Nazi Germany. Forced laborers are routinely killed, beaten and raped.



Don't do biz with companies that invest in Burma! Join the call for divestment!

Negotiating From the Shop Floor

Workers at the point of production, the ones on the job, are often mystified as to how their union contracts are negotiated. Do their boss and union boss meet in a dark room and have a tickle fight? Or perhaps they settle it over golf and a glass of Chablis? Nothing illegal about that, it's all part of the gentlemen's game called Winning a Labor Management Agreement.

But Wobs think different about dealing with the boss and entering into negotiations. Not only does the IWW believe in the idea that the union is controlled by the workers, the IWW's Constitution explicitly states that "No officer or member of the Union may seek a private interview with an employer...during contract negotiations."

So, this is to our benefit. We have a real rule which members can use to hold the union accountable. But, many unions don't have such a rule. And the problem is: if there's no rule, there's no legal obligation for the union to behave otherwise.

In the United States, a worker can hold their union accountable to its own constitution under the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act. Among other things, the LMRDA makes it mandatory to disclose wages of union officials and copies of the union's constitution. The law is also supposed to make unions abide by their own constitutions, but understand that it does not require them to be democratic. It'll surely leave you scrambled to put all of your eggs in the legal basket, but we'll take a look at the union accountability question in a future column. If your union is one that has no explicit provision to let the workers in on negotiating the contract, you can still organize for better (with the understanding that you'll probably be pissing off the boss and the union). Be prepared. Ultimately, you'll be fighting either to reform the union or replace it with better.

I often get calls a few weeks before a contract is up, asking what can be done in the short term to get a better deal when workers have little control over negotiations. Organizing for a better contract very closely resembles organizing your union for recognition. You must talk to your co-workers and find the pressing concerns that need to be addressed. You need to understand how strongly they are willing to fight, and how you can sustain your fight. You also should look into the ability of your boss to concede to your demands, and how long he can withstand your pressure. Simulta-

neously, you must force your union to bring these concerns to the table. It is illegal for your boss to engage in what is called "direct dealing," which is negotiating without the certified union, even if it is with a majority of the workers (that's why contracts say the union is the "sole bargaining agent").

You need to be very clear about what you want to win—not simply in a vague, generic way (better safety protection, say), but also with specific proposals that could be put in the contract and enforced. "Flexible" language that gives the boss lots of wiggle room just won't do. But all the great language in the world won't do you a bit of good unless you have the strength to make the boss sign. That strength does not come from the just-

ness of your cause, the eloquence of your words, or the beauty of your leaflets; it comes from building a credible threat that it will be more expensive to the boss to not give you what you want than to give in. That means you need to make it clear that a solid majority of the workers are with

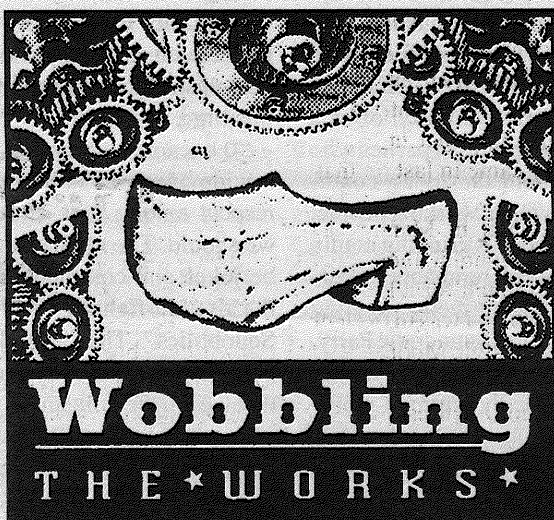
you - maybe through demonstrations, wearing buttons, even direct action on the job. Such shows of strength will inspire the union to represent you more diligently (if you're organized ahead of the game, maybe you can even force some workers onto the bargaining committee with the suits, and make sure the bargaining team meets regularly with the workers), and will show the boss that you mean business.

There's a lot more to be said on this topic, and each situation is different. If you're facing negotiations and want to take a look at some ideas on how to win a better deal, write to me at the address below (send \$4 for postage and copying) and you'll get back some resources which will hopefully prove valuable in your fight.

The big picture is, we all want a world where the workers on the job are democratically making the decisions about the job. To get to there from here means navigating through a jumble of different interests (that of boss, business union, and law), always making sure that the workers immediately concerned are the ones calling the shots.

Alexis Buss

If there is an issue you would like to see addressed in Wobbling the Works, write FW Buss at PO Box 42531, Philadelphia, PA 19101, or e-mail phillyiww.org



The IWW has come a long way in the last few years. Membership has nearly tripled, as have the number of branches. Revenue is 2 1/2 times what it was in 1995. Literature sales have more than doubled. The increased demand for supplies and services couldn't have been handled at General Headquarters without increasing office staff, but only to 1 3/4ths what it was in '95. That's going from 1 full time person at \$10/hr, no benefits, to 1 3/4ths full time people at the same. All along I've felt we needed 4 full time people to adequately provide current services to members, newspaper subscribers and literature purchasers while expanding our support for organizing and working on fund-raising. The money hasn't been there; so we made do. Operating expenses have increased by about 7/10ths in this period of nearly tripled membership growth. Annual deficit spending is 1/3 of what it was in fiscal '93-'94. The trends suggest that if we continue to grow we'd reach break even before very long. But we aren't there yet.

from the desk of..

In the interim, while the rate of deficit spending has decreased significantly, we're still engaged in deficit spending; and the cushion provided for the last ten years by two sizeable bequests received from deceased Wobblers in the late '80s is nearly depleted. Spending from the reserves has helped to get us where we are. Now we're back to the point where the treasury of the union is in the pockets of its members, perhaps a bit in the pockets of its friends. Unlike governments, the Union can't engage in deficit spending when there is no reserve from which to draw. So we have to try to increase our income. Until that happens we have to cut back expenses to match current revenues. Plans are in the works.

There has already been some reduction in payroll through voluntary deferment of part of wages until we again have a surplus. Meanwhile there has been no concomitant reduction in staffing. Some formerly paid hours have become deferred payment hours. If there were to be no future surplus, they will become volunteer hours. We may have to go deeper, but that couldn't happen without a further reduction in services.

The Industrial Worker is the next major expense for the Union. Its frequency may have to be cut back to bimonthly until we get back in a financial surplus situation. Moving to smaller and cheaper headquarters is under consideration. Anyone who has visited GHQ knows we don't have any unutilized space. And the office is hardly luxurious as it is (remembering scrambling to save literature when water from an upstairs washing machine cascaded through the ceiling.) But when the crunch come, ya gotta make do. We may just have to pile more stuff on stuff in some other cheaper space. Beyond that it's hard to know what to cut. This has never been an affluent operation. But we're looking at every expense. Every possible reduction in costs will be made. Constitutionally mandated expenditures are being examined with an eye toward proposing less expensive alternatives to the membership.

It isn't the first time the Union has been in dire financial straits. The alternative vision of militant revolutionary Unionism provided by the IWW has always been far too important to its members to allow it to fade away for lack of money. Support has always come through to provide the bare necessities and I'm confident it will once again. Even if it meant we had to go back to photocopied supplies and literature being generated out of someone's garage or basement, the folks ready to put it to good use would continue to be there. Our greatest asset always has been and always will be our dedicated membership.

But the less we have to cut back, the more likely we are to continue to grow at our recent pace. The alternative to reducing expenses and services is to increase revenue. Fund raising and expense reducing proposals from members have been flowing in through email. You can expect a mailed appeal from the Union in the near future. Meanwhile don't be shy. If every member, subscriber, lit buyer would come up with a spare 10 bucks, we'd have enough to continue at our current levels for another year. Of course some can't; so we need more from those supporters of the IWW who are better off financially. From each according to ability...

Meanwhile we'll keep on keeping on. We're close to having new branches in Orlando, FL, Louisville, KY and Grand Rapids, MI. I've been informed an application for Regional Organizing Committee status is in the mail from Fellow Workers in Finland. There are a couple of major organizing drives in the works. I'm hoping we'll have enough money to provide them all with organizing supplies. It's in your hands. Please do what you can. A vision won't die for lack of money; but propagating the vision isn't free.

See you on the picket line. I may have a donation bucket in my hand. Drop in whatcha can.

fred chase

IW Sustaining Fund

Brady Donahey	Nashville, TN	\$5
Eve Brant	Brooklyn, NY	\$4
McArthur Gunter	Camp Springs, MD	\$18.20
John Dziubak	Southington, CT	\$50

Charlie Sato Memorial Fund

Michael Long	Washington, DC	\$100
--------------	----------------	-------

IWW Fighting Fund

Jason Coulter	Chicago, IL	\$10
Lancaster GMB	Lancaster, PA	\$7.40
x346165	Fremont, OH	\$4
Clement Joseph	New York, NY	\$8
Herb Miller	Northampton, MA	\$2

SF IWW Recycling Job Shop AFL Leaders Snub Labor Notes

continued from page 1

its waste by the year 2000, this is a major problem. The student recyclers are also concerned that if students are not picking up recycling, the process of collection will be reduced to a negative sort (offices would not recycle, janitors would do a quick sort through the garbage) which would minimize costs in the short term, and make recycling on campus motivated by diversion of tonnage and pure economics only. This would dismantle the ongoing interaction and commitment the campus has with recycling and environmental preservation. It would ultimately increase the amount of recyclable material that ended up in a landfill because, although it would be hauled away by a recycling company, much of the material (paper especially) would be contaminated by garbage. The student run recycling program is very labor intensive work, but is has a very justifiable purpose. If the administration would consider the cost savings of landfill diversion (648 tons of recyclable and reusable material diverted in 1997-1998 fiscal year which saved the campus \$760,276 in landfill costs) the economic efficiency of the student run Recycling Resource Center would be more apparent. Waste diversion would also be increased if the Recycling Resource Center were adequately funded.

Currently, the student workers at the Recycling Resource Center are being challenged with inadequate funding and an unsupportive Recycling Resource Coordinator (who is in favor of ending student collection of recycling.) This semester 30 hours of collection work is uncovered, and the Recycling Coordinator is refusing to hire two more collectors (so that there will be same number of collectors as last semester) so that collection of recycling can be done adequately. As a result, many offices are threatening to quit recycling altogether because their recycling can not be picked up. This is bad for the morale of the campus

and the student employees. The safety of workers is also being jeopardized as the overload of work is placing an increased physical burden on workers.

On February 22, 1999 the SWAP (Surplus with a Purpose) Program which was created by students at the Recycling Resource Center was informed that as of March 1, 1999 the SWAP Program would be under the auspices of the Property Office. The SWAP Program since its inception in 1996, has made available for reuse 200 tons of San Francisco State University campus office supplies, office furniture, computers, and electronic equipment to non-profits and other SFSU campus departments. On March 8, 1999, the changeover happened without any consultation with student employees. As of June 1, 1999, the employees of the program will be separated from the Recycling Resource Center and paid through the Property Office. The students at the Recycling Resource Center believe it is important to maintain the recycling and reduction aspects of the Center together. SWAP should remain an integral part of the Recycling Resource Center.

ASUC Recyclers at UC Berkely have also been struggling with cuts in funding for years. Similar proposals for the ASUC Recyclers work to be placed upon janitors are being experimented with through pilot programs. The San Francisco State University campus could be an example to other campuses and the rest of the country if we could get the entire campus involved in a commitment to waste reduction, reuse and recycling. We are asking for the recognition, support and funding of the administration as well as the campus as a whole.

For more information and support contact:
Johnna Bossuot (415)338-9463
Kamisha Reidt (415)338-9464



A dozen or so Wobblies from Salt Lake City, New Orleans, Austin and the Michigan Area were present for the biennial conference of Labor Notes in Detroit the weekend of April 23 through the 25. Among the 1,000 or more rank and file workers present at the conference were some of the most well-informed trade unionists that organizations such as the AFL-CIO have to offer, (the running commentary was that the rest of them were either in Philadelphia or San Francisco in solidarity with class war political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal), but, not surprisingly, no AFL-CIO leadership.

"But what was truly puzzling is that there was not one national or state labor leader interested enough to attend," writes Harry Kelber in his article *LaborTalk: Snubbing Labor Activists*. "The three yop AFL-CIO officers—President John Sweeny, Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka and Executive Vice-President Linda Chavez-Thompson—didn't even send a greeting message to the conference, much less show-up and increase their understanding of what was happening at the grass-roots level. No one came from the 51 member Executive Council, the 70 international unions and the 50 state federations. Not a word of the conference or a mention of Labor Notes appeared in the AFL-CIO publications or on its website. It was a complete and thorough boycott."

It seems as if the leadership of business unions are more interested in increasing their salaries or making grand public appearances than connecting with their members. New members have never seemed to mean much more to the AFL-CIO than increased dues collection anyway, or as a way to "play ball" with political parties who couldn't care less about the living conditions or standard of living of working people. Somewhere John Sweeny is grinning madly for the camera while the remnants of currency and blood speckle his teeth, sweating a river while preening the Democratic Party.

Labor Notes did bring out a mostly young, ethnically diverse, friendly group of workers imbued with a strong spirit and understanding of solidarity. Workshops covered topics such as "Organizing Models That Work," "Turning Back the Tide of Privatization," "Winning Strikes," "Queer

Labor Organizing," and "Living Wage Campaigns." Officially missing from such a rank and file group were workshops more critical of business union leadership, but there were enough comments on the floor to demonstrate a definite ring of dissatisfaction.

"I spent most of the time at Labor Notes working the table for the IWW. Response was overwhelming. Through the course of three days I feel as if I spoke to almost all 1,000 workers who attended. Not surprisingly, the most common response to our table were conversations, both loud and subdued, about how badly represented most union members feel. My response usually revolved around the fact that it seems pointless to pay some union rep a five or six figure salary to represent my interests. That leads more frequently to ignorance or working people's reality, union sell-outs to management interests, prejudices concocted by union leadership and management schemes, union scabbing, the list goes on. Anyway, the funny thing is that most of these men and women were in complete agreement and then, when they crossed the aisle to the Teamsters' table, they would become haughty and celebratory of their pride in the Teamsters. Hmmm. I did attend a workshop on Queer Organizing. It was informative and energetic and delivered with both seriousness and humor. Many of those present at the workshop were pleasantly surprised to hear about how many, and how vocal, Queer Wobs are in relation to many of the other unions who are dealing with issues such as "Orientation Language" and "Domestic Partnership" in their contracts at this time.

"It became evident that our union enjoys a wide approval rating and quite a bit of respect among rank-and-file workers. As we should. The main criticism continues to be jokes and comments revolving around the air of in-fighting within the union. 'The Squobblies.' That attitude was often uncomfortable and unfortunate. The reality that we are the only union which listens and responds to workers, because we are worker controlled, is something to be treasured and respected. Not just an excuse to tear each other apart."

x346346

FLOC Fight For Humane Conditions For Farmworkers Continues

Union Si!

Bearing an eagle silhouette, and the words "Hasta La Victoria," the red, black, and yellow banners of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) flapped in vivid opposition to a backdrop of grey skies over Tampa, Florida. On this Saturday morning, the sky yielded a soft rain: a release from the week-long heat. Fernando Cuevas Jr. sheltered his younger brother under his umbrella, while organizer Dan Belgrad offered to share his umbrella with a new supporter who arrived at the Food Lion supermarket at 10 am. Shoppers, used to living in a land of perpetual sunshine, hurried to their cars: FLOC organizers decided shoppers would not be receptive to flyers and picket signs as they dodged the drizzle so the rally was postponed.

In the fields, Fernando Cuevas Sr. observed, rain changes nothing. If there are cucumbers to pick, they pick. If it rains, they work. If the sun beats down, they work. The workdays are long: ten, twelve, fourteen hour days are common. It's a marriage of sorts, this relationship between farmworker and field, between men, women, children, who live in squalid, crowded quarters on the land they work until it's time to move onto the next crop. Asked if farm workers have employer-provided health in-

surance, Cuevas replied they don't need it, explaining that pickers don't get sick. "We can't afford to," he said, adding that if they get sick, they work anyway. Organizer

sidizing what employers should be paying for," Cuevas said.

Employers in Southern right-to-work states like North Carolina, where Mt. Olive

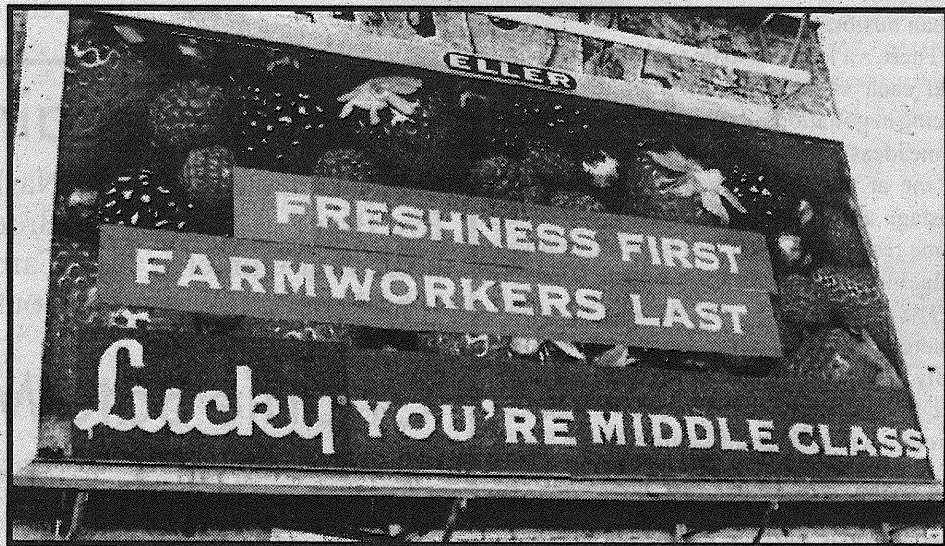


photo contributed by California Department of Corrections

Teresa Ivey, a Tampa activist and nurse practitioner agreed. Ivey works at a Plant City clinic where many of her patients are migrant farm workers' children. They don't go to the clinic themselves, she said, of the adult farm workers. "They bring their children."

"They (the government) are federally sub-

siding what employers should be paying for," Cuevas said. Employers in Southern right-to-work states like North Carolina, where Mt. Olive

ern states are paid under a complicated piece-work system that many workers don't understand. Without a contract, they are open to exploitation. "There is no enforcement to make sure workers get paid the minimum," said Cuevas. In contrast, union workers in states like Ohio and Michigan are guaranteed a minimum of \$6 an hour. In 1993, sharecropping in Ohio and Michigan was eliminated by agreement, and farm workers became employees with rights. Cuevas said their goal is to "organize the South." FLOC has fought this war before. In 1978, the Union clashed with the Campbell Soup Company when Ohio farm workers went on strike in fields contracted to that company. At issue were sub-minimum wages, exclusion from protective legislation, poor sanitation, health care, and housing. A national consumer boycott of Campbell and its major supporters eventually succeeded in securing a contract in February 1986, between FLOC, Campbell, and 35 family farmers. Contracts with Heinz, Vlasic, and 49 growers followed in 1987. Though for the moment rained out, FLOC promises to be back. On this unlikely day, the union picked up four new supporters. More pickets are planned for June and July in various South Florida locations.

Cris D'Angelo—Tampa

AFL-CIO Courts the Republicans: A Lot More of the Same Old Thing

The business unions are at it again, opting to play both sides of the United States' political arena rather than fight for the rights, work conditions and wages of rank and file workers. For decades, unions have been contributing massively to the Democratic party for representation in Congress with little or no support other than token lip service and watered down contracts. So now the fun continues, unions have now decided to begin upping their contributions to the Republican Party as well. What are likely to be the results? More of the same inane and insulting posturing, while union leaders continue to drone, "We consider this to be a huge victory for labor!" as they win another year contract. Like Malcolm X said, "The Republicans are like a wolf, they say they are gonna eat you, and they do. The Democrats are like a fox, they say they aren't gonna eat you, but they do anyway."

The 20 labor unions that gave the most to congressional candidates for last year's elections increased their contributions to Republicans by almost one-third—to a total of \$2.1 million—over the 1996 cycle. Which is not to say the unions are abandoning their old friends: the same political action committees contributed far more, \$27.2 million to Democrats. Ever wonder where your union dues are going?

So far this year, the National Education Association has given \$55,000 in unregulated "soft money" to national Republican Party committees and \$5,000 to Rep. Johnny Isakson, the Georgia Republican elected to complete the congressional term of former Speaker Newt Gingrich, a champion of labor in his own right, (well, about as much so as any other politician). "We're making a concerted effort to do our politics based on

the issue and not based on the party," said Elizabeth Teasley, the NEA's director of government relations. "We contribute based on how they measure up on the issues."

Of course the mystery in all of this is what "issues" Ms. Teasley is referring to. Must be all of those "putting power in the workers' hands" initiatives that hit the Senate and House of Representatives in 1998. No wonder the AFL-CIO supports capitalism and its representatives in government.

"Labor realized after 1996 that Republicans were here to stay," said Rep. Peter King of New York, a pro-union Republican.

More of the same inane and insulting posturing, while union leaders continue to drone, "We consider this to be a huge victory for labor!" as they win another year contract.

"They would have to deal with Republicans. One of the ways is by attending Republican events and socializing with Republicans."

"It also helps to contribute rather than being marked as the enemy."

Labor unions remain dedicated to helping Democrats wrest control of the House from the GOP in 2000, pledging not only Political Action Committee contributions but millions of dollars for issue advertising. Giving a little more to the Republicans, especially to moderates, is a way to prove they are simply hedging their bets and putting faith in a system that cannot be reformed.

The AFL-CIO's political director, Steve Rosenthal, made a conciliatory move recently, assuring Rep. Tom Davis of Virginia, chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, that unions would support pro-labor Republicans. "Over the last couple of years, we have tried to find

those Republicans who are willing to take hard stands, usually against party leadership, in support of issues that really matter to working people."

One needs only look at the body of work that has come out of Congress and the White House for the past decade to see what these issues might be: Welfare "Reform," which made huge contributions to families in order to give them incentive to work and lead a human existence (translation: eliminating all social safety nets to opt for minimum wage part-time jobs which then contribute to the shrinking unemployment rate); NAFTA, which created an area of "free trade" in order to benefit all the workers of the western hemisphere (translation: a criminal policy that pits workers against workers while the company profits skyrocket and the environment dies); "Health Care" Reform (is anybody laughing?); Corporate Tax Breaks; Environmental (Detrimental) Policies; Sanctions; War; and the saliva continues to run down the chin of your workplace's CEO.

All this for working people of the world. All this with the union leadership's support.

What does all this mean to you as a working stiff? Perhaps we can be treated to another one of Senator Wellstone's brilliant speeches about the rights of working people (backed up by half-hearted attempts to improve conditions in the workplace and more tax breaks for corporations in the Twin Cities). After all, Wellstone is a self-proclaimed "champion of labor." A Democrat too for that matter, and they're *always* on your side.

But what this really means is more of the same. No representation. No voice. A false modicum of freedom. And an illusion of comfort.

Direct Action Gets the Goods when Auto Workers Occupy Ontario Plant

from AP and Kim Kent.

Twenty five employees of Canadian Fabricated Products Ltd. took over their autoparts plant on April 15, 1999, in a dramatic effort to win back more than fifty jobs that are going to Mexico. The workers, mostly women, barred themselves in the plant and asked security guards to leave. It had been announced that 57 more employees were laid off permanently due to the outsourcing of work to Mexico, on top of the approximately 250 workers already laid off. "We're staying until we have our jobs back," said Susan Danner, president of Canadian Auto Workers Local 1325, who was among those occupying the plant.

A spokesman for Johnson Controls said only "small portions of the business were going to be done at a plant in Mexico."

Most of the workers—mainly women aged 40 to 45 who have worked at the plant for nearly 20 years—earn an average wage of \$18 for cutting and sewing. The Union says the company has violated a three year contract signed in January. The agreement, which encourages early retirement, was to afford greater security for young workers.

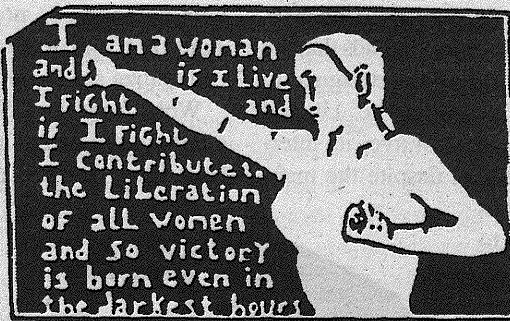
After one day of the occupation, the Union reached agreement with the company which included the rescinding of the 57 permanent layoff notices and the recall of the workers. The agreement also included a formula ensuring that for every 100 people who retire or leave the plant, 75 laid off CAW members will be recalled.

Hemi Mitic, assistant to CAW president, said the agreement is a victory for these workers. "This proves that fighting back makes a difference when workers are struggling to build a better future for themselves, their families and communities."



Charlie Sato Fund Travel Grants For Winnepeg GA

Charlie Sato Memorial Fund travel grants are again available to one or more women Wobs planning to attend this year's GA in Winnepeg. Born and raised in Hawai'i, Charlene ("Charlie") Sato was educated at Berkeley, the University of Hawai'i and UCLA. She taught Pidgin and Creole studies, second language acquisition and sociolinguistics at the University of Hawai'i from 1982 until her untimely death from ovarian cancer on January 28, 1996, aged just 44. Sorely missed to this day by all who knew her, Charlie was a tireless fighter for social justice and the rights of working people, as well as a founding member of the O'ahu GMB. On her death, a Memorial Fund was established in her name with the IWW. Each year since 1996, using the interest from the principle, which continues to grow through donations, one



or more women members of the IWW have received small travel grants, totaling about \$200.00, to assist them in attending GA. This year, a total of approximately \$250.00 will be available for one or more women going to Winnepeg. So as to keep bureaucracy to a minimum, in order to apply, by July 15, 1999 simply send a one-page letter or an email message stating that you are in good financial standing with the Union, how much you need and how you plan to participate in GA to: Mike Long, 2386 Liloa Rise, Honolulu, HI 96822 (mlong@hawaii.edu). The recipient(s) will be chosen on their perceived merits by an ad hoc panel of two or three Wobs, and all applicants will be notified of the outcome by July 31, 1999.

Mike Long—IU 620

Wisconsin May Day Protests

continued from page 1

Why the Anti-Budget Protest?:

Tommy Thompson's Proposed State Budget Would:

- Privatize the UW System & Deny Technical College Funding
- Increase Tuition at the UW-Madison at up to 10X the Rate of Inflation
- Boost Corporate Welfare by over \$250 million
- Eliminate State Commitment to Fund 2008 Diversity Programs
- Increase Prison Building by Close to \$100 million
- Eliminate State Funding for Recycling Programs
- Put the State on Course to Pave WI to the Sound of \$20.1 Billion
- Spend Over \$600,000 to Promote the Dismantling of Welfare Safety Net
- Privatize Wisconsin Public Television and Radio

Big corporations scored big when Governor Tommy Thompson unveiled his 1999-2001 Wisconsin State Budget proposal in mid February of this year. Who took the biggest hits? Working families, people of

color, children, homeowners, communities, the aging, the disabled, students, and Wisconsin's environmental future.

Three unhealthy trends mark this proposed budget:

- 1) Increased Corporatization and Privatization
- 2) Increased Corporate Subsidies
- 3) Slashed Public Services

The emergence of these trends is bad news to many who can least afford it, and bad news for the state of democracy in Wisconsin. Therefore, the Wisconsin Earth Day to May Day Coalition calls upon the State Legislature to reject the Governor's proposed 1999-2001 Budget. Budget priorities must be redrawn to serve the needs of Wisconsin's people.

The Legislature can begin by addressing the specific concerns, among others, outlined in this document.

If legislators determine that a People's Budget, rather than a Corporate Budget, is what they intend to produce, a major shift in resources and power will prove necessary. "Schools, Not Jails" is not only a slogan, it's a necessity for millions of Wisconsinites.

It has been brought to the attention of the editors that in the February issue of the Industrial Worker the graphic entitled "There is No Working Class Anymore" was beautifully crafted by Wal Larkin. We would like to apologize for not running his name alongside the graphic. We were definitely in error.

ICFTU Urges Burmese Boycott in Protest of Forced Labor

The International Confederation of Free Trade (ICFTU) is bringing fresh evidence on the systematic resort by Burma's military junta to forced labor. The Brussels-based labor group has urged its member organizations in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries to call on their governments to cancel their participation at the Rangoon Summit scheduled for the second week of May. According to the ICFTU estimates of over 800,000 Burmese are still victims of forced labor. The document includes evidence acquired last April by the Federation of Trade Unions - Burma (FTUB), whose underground structures, operating deep inside army-controlled territory, last month uncovered signs of a growing rift between Burma's regular infantry battalions and the regime's military intelligence units. The two branches are at odds over their respective share of money, food supplies and forced labor quotas extorted from the civilian population in large areas of the southern Pegu division, located

just North of the capital, Rangoon. Burma's forced laborers are "frequently beaten or otherwise physically abused by soldiers, resulting in serious injuries, some are killed, and women performing compulsory labor are raped or otherwise sexually abused by soldiers," the report by ICFTU states. The practice of compulsory labor is of course tantamount to slavery under international law. "Burma's military clique keeps seeing the country's entire population as a bottomless reservoir of free manpower and, in doing so, treats the ILO and its supervisory bodies with utter contempt," the ICFTU General Secretary Bill Jordan announced in Brussels, encouraging member nations to boycott the Summit in Rangoon. "That ASEAN Labor Ministers should even consider meeting on an equal footing with Burma's generals in their bunker-like capital is an insult to the international community in general and to the Burmese people in particular."

Ford Motor Shifts Brazil Workers

Having come to the end of a job-saving, sales-boosting agreement with Ford Motor Company, Brazilian workers are now anticipating massive dismissals. Unemployment concerns were based on the automakers recent car price hike that effectively brought an end to a tax-reduction agreement aimed at saving thousands of jobs and increasing sales. Some 20,000 workers from the Brazilian subsidiaries of Ford Motor Company, Volkswagen AG and DaimlerChrysler AG's Mercedes Benz unit marched through the streets of Sao Bernardo do Campo, the industrial suburb of Sao Paulo where the automakers are headquartered. The automakers' had been operating since March under an agreement to not raise prices or to lay off any workers for at least 90 days. Efforts to extend that agreement for another 30 days have failed. The Sao Bernardo do Campo Metalworkers Union has been quoted as threatening to "unleash a general strike and stop the factories" as part of a continued effort to force the automakers to negotiate.

Minimum Wage Strikes in Nigeria

Since April 11, Nigeria's public sector represented by the Nigeria Labour Congress has been on strike demanding that a new minimum wage be paid in all states. The strike was given a boost when it was joined by the Nigeria Union of Teachers, who called out primary and secondary school teachers. The states are saying that to pay this new wage, the Federal Government would have to come to their aid and the Federal Government has refused to do so thus far. Support is expected to grow for the strike, according to Adams Oshiomole, the president of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC). The NLC charges that corruption within the state government has wasted public monies on fictitious contracts and frivolous spending and that if this would stop, the new minimum wage could be paid. "State administrators and their wives are spending millions of naira on jamborees," Oshiomole claims.

An International Party & Protest of the G8 Summit

"The last three decades of this century have witnessed the eruption of the most significant internal conflict ever to engage the human species. It is not the struggle between capitalism and communism or between any other set of 'isms'.....It is the conflict between those who possess the means and the



will to exploit the living world to destruction and those who are banding together in a desperate, last ditch attempt to prevent the juggernaut from trashing our small planet.

If the right side wins, this combat may become known as the Crusade that Saved the Earth. If the wrong side wins, there will be no future generations."

Farley Mowat

On June 18th this year in Cologne, Germany, the G8 (the eight most militarily and industrially developed nation states and their associated corporate interests) will meet to collaborate on the next phase of capitalism/state communism: globalization. This meeting will seek to establish international agreements that will supersede the already almost non-existent democratic rights of local communities to protect themselves and the world they live in from corporate predation.

G8, The World Bank and the IMF

The (then) G7 held its first annual summit in 1975. Since then, its member countries have worked together to dictate international policy through their influence over the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and other international financial institutions. G8 member countries consistently exert their influence in ways that are economically beneficial to themselves, and detrimental to Third World nations riddled with debt.

In essence, the G8 is supporting the World Bank and the IMF in projects that are having a profound effect on the environment and on the economic stability of many Third World countries. Two of the programs supported by the IMF and the World Bank, and therefore the G8, include the Structural Adjust-

ment Program (SAP) and the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Program Facility (ESAF). The SAP program was implemented in the early 80's and aimed at reducing government budget deficits by decreasing government expenditures. This program was severely criticized by numerous non-governmental organizations (NGO's) worldwide as being unduly harsh and creating, according to Samir Amin, "a sharp increase in unemployment, a fall in the remuneration of

work, an increase in food dependency, deterioration in healthcare systems, a fall in admissions to educational institutions, a decline in the productive capacity of many nations, the sabotage of democratic systems, and the continued growth of external debt." These trends of brutal and massive impoverishment linked to policies developed by the G8 are evidenced most clearly in the "South" and the "East." Major auto companies like Ford are closing plants in countries like Brazil, (and threatening to close more plants) at the same time as they plan new plants in other countries where the labor market is more "amenable."

One of the four official arms of the World Bank Group is the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development that was founded in 1946 as a way to finance reconstruction in war-ravaged countries that have poor credit and face difficult debt repayments. In order to qualify for debt relief through this program however, the government must be a member of the World Bank and comply with the SAP's, the very program that inhibits governments from spending money on social programs. Many nations are in peril from such debt, although not necessarily as a result of the SAP's. Uganda, for example, is so debt-ridden that \$3 per person is spent on health care compared to \$17 per person on debt repayment. In Zambia, between 1990 and 1993, \$37

million was invested in primary school education while \$1.3 billion went to foreign creditors.

The International Monetary Fund is an international institution in charge of ensuring monetary stability in an open world economy by promoting free trade and exchange, and overseeing the global economy. The Fund's policies and conditions are largely formulated by G8 countries because voting power in the IMF is determined by the economic strength of the member country - and G8 countries have, by definition, the strongest economies. There is much criticism then of the IMF and the role which the G8 plays in the IMF. Richard Longworth,

an author and commentator on global economics, has stated, "the IMF, created after the war to promote currency stability, now spends most of its time persuading Third World debtor nations to restructure their economies to protect foreign leaders."

In particular, the United States appears to benefit greatly from the policies of the IMF. Amin contends that the IMF "was designed to provide the United States with complete control over its interventions" and notes that despite the mandate of the IMF, it has

"never been able to compel the great capitalist powers, particularly the United States, whether they show a surplus or a deficit, to carry out structural adjustments as harsh as the ones it imposes on Third World countries."

The IMF offers Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility loans for developing countries. These loans are intended to provide financing for governments to meet their short term obligations, and pave the way for long

term economic growth. However, much like the World Bank's SAP, this loan fosters poverty and environmental degradation while benefiting the corporations as one of the conditions of the loans typically involve the removal of trade barriers, and the promotion of foreign investment through privatization and deregulation of labor and environmental laws.

Already the globalization of capital has stretched its toxic tentacles into the rainforests of South America, the jungles and river valleys of India and the rocky heart of Australia. The G8, with its attendant servants the World Bank and the IMF, have robbed the public coffers of nations and stolen the natural world, converting it to waste and cash. Through their machinations, jobs and production are created and transferred from country to country, wherever the working people have been most successfully intimidated and oppressed into accepting less compensation for their labor.

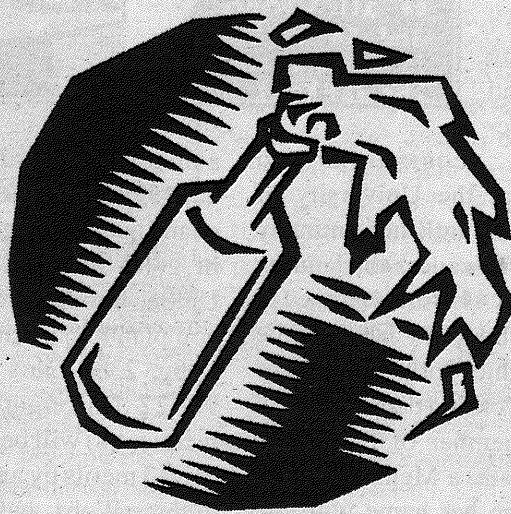
Neither we nor the world can tolerate this for long. The G8's plans for profit and destruction are not sustainable. We owe it to future generations to organize now. In the spirit of strengthening international networks for equality, freedom and ecological sustainability, we encourage all sympathetic movements and groups to organize their own autonomous protests and actions on June 18. If we cooperate and coordinate, we can realize a different world.

Wobs from the US and Canada are welcome to join us in Detroit for our event in Hart Plaza at 4p.m (conveniently located

near the financial district and several corporate offices). If in need of directions or places to crash, please call 313.841.0838, 313.832.0114 or 313.215.5633.

Or check out international planning and discussion on lstproc@gnapcong.org. Please request

Subscribe <J18DISCUSSION> and include your email address.



Triduum or Tritium? A Jesuit Wobbly Describes an Experience of Non-Violent Action

The Easter Triduum has passed, this is a Christian, three day event honoring the death of Jesus Christ and his resurrection. I am Ben Jimenez, a Wobbly studying for the Catholic priesthood at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, CA. As part of my Triduum, I spent Good Friday morning at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, "the premiere nuclear weapons facility in the United States" as their website describes.

For over 15 years, people of all faiths have demonstrated and prayed on Good Friday outside this laboratory to end the research and development of the next generation of nuclear weapons which continues at a great price to society. The facility requires 1 billion dollars a year for operational expenses, and is in the process of adopting a new program called the national ignition facility, which costs 1.2 billion dollars in construction and will receive 4 billion dollars a year of taxpayer money for the next 13 years for its operation, according to Tri-Valley CAREs, one of the organizers of the yearly event.

The national ignition facility is essentially a "giant laser project" that "focuses and directs" large glass lasers into a tiny gold cylinder through its open ends. The cylinder fills with intense x-radiation, imploding a tiny spherical pellet of deuterium and radioactive tritium (D-T) which is suspended inside the cylinder. What is the point of all this? "Under some circumstances,

some portion of the D-T fuel will then undergo nuclear fusion, releasing energy in the form of intense radiation, much like a tiny hydrogen bomb." In scientific terms, this is what the facility is all about.

For Wobs who have been out on the picket lines through the years, we know that things can get nasty or nice. Think back, Detroiters, to the early protests at the Free Press printing plants in Sterling Heights for a nasty example.

For a nice example, I offer you our example at Lawrence Livermore. About 100 people came out on a chilly but sunny Friday morning. We started off at 6:45 am with music and prayers. At 7:30 am, we proceeded to five stations of the cross that bore nuclear themes. This was similar to the Catholic stations of the cross, which depict the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, from his condemnation to death to his rising from the dead.

The final station was at the west gate of the laboratories. There, waiting and ready, were the California police.

We began to kneel in front of them, in groups of about 20. We were told we had

two minutes to disperse or face arrest. After two minutes, officers came out and one by one took us onto laboratory property, where we were frisked, handcuffed, and put in vans.

Having read all about non-violence and seen it in people like Ghandi and Martin Luther King, I knew it made sense intellec-

For Wobs who have been out on the picket lines through the years, we know that things can get nasty or nice. Think back, Detroiters, to the early protests at the Free Press printing plants in Sterling Heights for a nasty example.

tually. It was on this day in Livermore, though, that I experienced its power to disarm and humanize.

As we knelt in front of the police, we started chatting with one of the officers. A friend of mine wore a Cleveland Indians baseball hat, and the officer said, "Why are you wearing that hat? This is (San Francisco) Giants country." We proceeded to talk about baseball and Cleveland, Ohio for the next few minutes. While we were talking, the officer's superior came up behind him and apparently told him to keep the chatter to a minimum.

We continued to talk for a few more minutes, as I witnessed the power of non-violence transform a situation. For a short period of time, we were speaking human to human, finding that common ground despite circumstances.

This continued as we went through the arrest process. Another officer asked me, "Hey, where did you get those orange sunglasses?" We then spoke about how I got them sending in three boxtops to Kellogg's cornflakes. As we spoke, he put handcuffs on me, and explained that he wasn't going to put them on tightly and would lock them so they would not become tighter.

I had one more interesting conversation with the officer who drove us back to the parking lot, once we were issued tickets and had had our pictures taken. In the van, he had tuned in Rush Limbaugh on the radio. I said, "Hey, could you change the station?" He said, "No, you all will have to have your protests later in the day." As he let us out of the van, I told him, "Have you ever heard of Noam Chomsky? He's on KPFA radio 94.1 (in the Bay Area). He will give you a different perspective." The officer said, "OK, I can find that on the radio easy enough."

Wobbly brothers and sisters, it was an interesting day all the way around, and the arrest was only the beginning. The work of Lawrence Livermore and nuclear proliferation continues, but so does the transforming power of non-violence as I witnessed on Good Friday, 1999.

Ben Jimenez SJ—x346158

Guyana: Union Leaders Charged

On May 5, the Guyanese government charged union leaders with organizing protest processions without permits as strikes and demonstrations spread in the South American country.

Guyana Public Service Union president Patrick Yarde, vice president Anwar Hussain and general secretary Lawrence Mentis were served with court summonses and ordered to appear before a judge on the 10th of May.

The union has been organizing daily peaceful protests in Georgetown, the capital, as public workers strike to demand pay raises of at least 30 percent. The government says International Monetary Fund constraints mean it can only afford a 4.6 percent raise. On May 5th, about 500 mail carriers and an undisclosed number of air traffic controllers joined the week-old strike. Postmaster General Edward Noble said the walk-out was forcing postal managers to schedule deliveries by priority. "The most we can do is at least try to deal with international mail, express mail and ensure other services, like money transfers and payment to pensioners, are continued," Noble said.

The Guyana Labor Union said it is considering broadening the strike to municipal workers and the Guyana Pharmaceutical Co., as well as to 300 civilian employees of the army.

Russia: Miners' Strike

About 1,000 coal miners in Russia's Far East went on strike because they had not been paid for 10 months. The miners on Sakhalin Island, located off Russia's Pacific coast, said they will strike until May 16th, but many of the miners want the strike to continue until they are paid in full. The protesters are from a strip mine that provides most of the coal to a regional power station, which is already experiencing a major fuel shortage. After staging widespread strikes last summer and fall, Russian coal miners forced the government to pay off some of the millions of dollars it owes them. Even so most of Russia's miners continue to receive their wages months late, if at all.

Thailand: Workers "Lock-In" in Protest

As state enterprise workers stepped up the pressure on the government, the Prime Minister's office minister responsible for energy affairs was recalled from abroad to engage in talks with management and unions of the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT). Power workers had padlocked gates at the EGAT head office in Nonthaburi (causing a "lock-in") in an effort to persuade colleagues to join their protest against privatization. The EGAT union is currently fighting the sale of the Ratchaburi power plant (the government wants the proceeds to repay foreign debt) and wants the state to hold 70% of all state enterprises. Sathaporn Maneerat, a protest leader, said that the lock-in was the first of a series of measures planned by the protesters to deal with the government. Hundreds of protesting EGAT workers in Nakhon Ratchasima and Kanchanaburi joined the Demonstrations in Bangkok. Some workers are threatening damage to the Mae Moh power plant if the government's scheme to privatize the industry goes through. "We have no other option" said Mr. Sathaporn. "We are reasonable, but the government is not. It is not interested in our hardship."

South Africa: Lock-Out Sparks Strike

In Johannesburg, a three week long lock out of hundreds of workers allied to the Chemical Energy Paper Printing Wood and Allied Workers Union (CEPPWAWU) and the Media Workers' Association of South Africa (MWASA) at the Mondipak Alrode plant held a demonstration outside the factory on May 7 to rally support for their strike. The workers are on strike fighting the introduction of a three shift system that requires employees to work until 6 a.m. Mondipak has stated that they will not accede to union demands. Mondipak has employed scab labor during the dispute and applied a principle of no work, no pay, but workers have vowed to continue the strike until their demands are met (no third shift and transport provided by the company for the second shift).

Peruvian Workers Strike Against Government

Protesters stoned buses and burned tires in Peru's capital on April 25 in the first national strike against President Alberto Fujimori since he took power nearly a decade ago. Soldiers with automatic weapons guarded public buildings and armored troop carriers patrolled the streets. Police fired tear gas at protesters burning tires in downtown Lima near the headquarters of the populist Aprista Party of former President Alan Garcia. The government ordered 20,000 policemen into the streets to protect the scabs who defied the call to strike.

The strike had wide support throughout the country. Led by leftist unions, it was joined and fueled by opposition parties and even business organizations. "The strike has been respected by 70% of the workers on a national level," said Jose Risco, leader of Peru's largest labor organization, the General Confederation of Peruvian Workers.

Fujimori labeled the strike organizers as "communists" and Labor Minister Pedro Flores declared the strike illegal. "Only those who have full wallets have the luxury of not working," Flores said, warning workers that their pay would be discounted if they did not show up to scab.

Most buses stayed off the streets early in the day but began to circulate by midday. In outlying shantytowns the only transportation was motorized rickshaws. They had few passengers since most workers opted to

stay at home.

The strike was even stronger outside of the capital in major provincial cities. Stores remained closed in Iquitos in the Amazon jungle and in Cuzco, Ayacucho and Arequipa in the southern Andes.

Peru's union, weakened by anti-labor legislation under Fujimori, have gained renewed energy as his free-market reforms have done little to generate jobs or reduce poverty. In recent years, economic growth has stagnated and even the privileged classes now complain about Fujimori's policies. Vacant signs dot offices in Lima's business and upscale shopping districts.

As a result of Fujimori's free-market reforms, Peru's economy grew by a scorching 32 percent between 1993 and 1996. But one of every two Peruvians still lives in poverty. Fujimori's economic reforms halted hyperinflation that had soared above 7,000 percent in 1990, the year he took office. But privatization of state enterprises have left tens of thousands of workers without jobs.

Fujimori has not said if he plans to run for a second re-election in April 2000, but his backers in Congress have approved a controversial law paving the way for such a bid. In recent months he has crisscrossed Peru, visiting even remote areas of the Andes and the Amazon jungle and giving what sounds to most people like campaign speeches.

"Power fascinates me," he said recently.

Subscribe Today

Subscriptions are \$15 per year (12 issues)

Enclosed: ☐ \$15, 1 year ☐ \$_____ donation to the IW Sustaining Fund
☐ \$15, bundle of 5, 6 months (ask for special IWW member rates)

Name Address

City State/Prov Post Code

Send Subscriptions, Renewals and Bundle Requests to:
 Industrial Worker Distribution, 103 W Michigan, Ypsilanti MI 48197

Olympia IWW & EF! and Wobbly Roadless Area

Throughout the 20th century, corporate and government leaders have perpetuated a public belief in a dependent relationship between labor and natural resource extraction. However, as our natural resources and the industries that depend on them disintegrate, the economic and social benefits of untouched wilderness reveal themselves. The days of the Paul Bunyan logger of the Northwest have long gone.

Corporate propaganda has led millions to believe that laborers need jobs like mining or logging that extract natural resources. During the past fifty years, the logging industry was credited with keeping certain regions "alive" while the profits rolled in and everyone got paid (albeit not well and under hellish conditions). At the end of this industrial century, the same logging corporations are credited for laying off thousands of loggers and mill workers. We damn timber corporations for landslides and floods that destroy our homes and drinking water because the company paid to clear out the headwaters of the region's rivers.

In the hands of corporate leaders, "private" forests supplied the 20th century with timber and jobs until automation and a slowly regenerating tree crop reduced the industry tremendously in the late 1980s and early 90s.

The federal government created the National Forest Service in the early 20th century to set aside lands from private development. Meanwhile the National Forest Service sells the public's trees in couple-hundred acre packages to timber companies that have stripped their own lands. The status of "National Forest" does not protect land from being logged or mined.

Wobblies and Earth First!ers from Olympia, Washington are adopting the Wobbly Roadless Area in the Gifford National Forest. The Gifford National Forest spans 1.2 million acres of Washington's southern Cascade Mountains and includes Mount St. Helens and Mount Adams (both dormant volcanoes). Logging of old growth forest in wilderness still goes on in the Gifford Pinchot. However, Wobbly organization does not still go on in the Gifford Pinchot area. At least not as it did in history.

The IWW and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest have historical ties dating back to the early 1900's. During World War I while the demand for timber increased for wartime production, Wobbly lumber strikes in southwest Washington increased as well. The Wobblies demanded an eight hour day, shower facilities and clean living spaces at the logging camps. Instead, the local officials turned logging camps into bullpens for Wobblies in 1916 and 1917.

A large part of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest is located in Lewis County, WA. Centralia, Lewis County's largest town,

was the site of gunfire conflict between Wobblies and American Legionnaires on November 11, 1919. Eight Wobblies were convicted of second-degree murder and vigilantes hanged Wesley Everest. Police never pursued the murder of Everest. The IWW hosts a pilgrimage to Centralia in honor of FW Everest on November 11 every year.

The status of Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union Local 2767 at three mills in eastern Lewis County is currently questionable. Hampton Affiliates, a Texas-based corporation recently bought three mills in the Cowlitz River Valley from Seattle-based Pacific Lumber and Shipping. Hampton Affiliates claims that they will rehire "most worker." However, Hampton's other companies in Oregon and Texas are nonunion establishments, some of which were union prior to Hampton's buyout.

Wobblies from Olympia are adopting Wobbly Roadless Area to protect wilderness within its borders from resource exploitation. Wobbly Roadless Area covers 6,710 acres of ridgelines topped by Elk Peak, running with clean streams and carpeted with ancient forests where endangered species still live on the northwest shoulders of Mount Adams. Wobbly Ridge alongside several others divides the North Fork Cispus River and Cispus River, which once supported an abundant salmon population. The Klikitat Trail, a trade route developed over centuries by the Native Americans, runs through the eastern side of Wobbly Roadless Area and can still be hiked today. Another trail follows Wobbly Creek to Wobbly Lake at the heart of the roadless area.

The wilderness within Wobbly Roadless Area needs permanent legal protection. The Forest Service attempted to sell the Cispus Flats timber sale last year. So far, no timber corporation has purchased it. All of the mills in the area get their logs from private lands. If a company buys the Cispus Flats timber sale, a handful of loggers and mill workers will be paid to harvest and process the timber. Then, the wood will be sold, the sale area abandoned and the company will profit, all at the cost of another piece of rare wilderness.

Olympia Wobblies and Earth First!ers will be hiking Wobbly Roadless Area on July 17 to learn the area and embark on their advocacy for Wobbly wilderness protection. All are welcome to attend the hike and join the fight to protect the last of our wildlands heritage from corporate plundering!

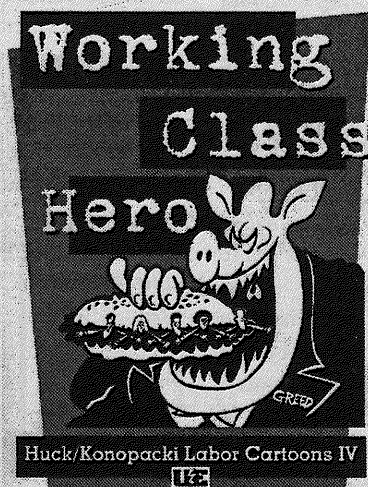
For more information or to attend the July Hike of Wobbly Roadless Area, contact Eric for the Olympia Wobblies at (360) 786-0864 or Olympia Earth First! at (360) 867-9054.

Dianne Evans

Clowns for the Revolution

Working Class Hero

Huck/Konopacki Labor Cartoons IV published by United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Pittsburgh



This fourth Huck-Konopacki cartoon collection brings us five years of wit and wisdom from the class clowns of the US labor movement.

Gary and Mike make us laugh out loud while they're busy slapping us upside the head with political truths. They don't just make us laugh. They make us sad. They make us think. True class war artists, they

contribution to the struggle is at least as great as the best organizers and most dedicated rank and filers. Their contributions to organizing have been constant, sustained, on-target, and direct. When an organizer friend asked for art recently it was Huck-Konopacki material I faxed to her. She put it to work and a recent meeting to form an organizing committee attracted twice the number of expected volunteers.

Huck works for the United Electrical workers union which published this collection. He's the only union staff cartoonist in the US. Maybe not the reason, but surely a symptom, of the tiredness of the US labor movement.

Konopacki has a unique status in labor history too. His *Wage Slave World News*, a labor satire 'zine in supermarket tabloid style, appeared for a couple years as an insert in the *Industrial Worker*.

A referendum vote on whether to ban the *Slave* from the pages of the *Worker* made Mike the only union editor in history to win a union wide vote allowing him to be funny in public.

A hammerin' toast

Bertolt Brecht said somewhere, "art is not a mirror held up to reflect reality, it is a hammer with which to smash it."

Gary and Mike, class warriors with drawing pens and computers, have been



share our experiences in the land of greed, and express them for us.

Check out how:

Gary Huck uses four panels of copying machine playfulness to reveal the one true god of American materialism.

The nasty nineties and the empty hope of electoral politics are summed up in a still timely 1994 Mike Konopacki cartoon of workers drinking beer.

Buy. don't steal, this book

At the recent Labor Notes conference in Detroit Gary was working the Labor Heritage table and someone asked him if buying the book meant being able to use the cartoons in it. He told her: no, if you really want to use them the subscription rate for the monthly packet is fairly low. "Why would I want to buy the book if I can't use the cartoons?" she asked. Gary said, "Well, y'know, it's my work of the last five years. How can I answer that question?"

Let me answer. You should buy this book because it sums up the nineties with analysis worthy of FW Noam Chomsky. And a bit more humor. You should buy it 'cos artists need to make a living too.

Artists among us

I work as an organizer in Detroit. Some days I spend more time with artists — theater folk, musicians, photographers, cartoonists — than with rank and file workers or other organizers. Let's be clear. These artists are working class folks working regular jobs but dedicated hugely to their art, or they're people who live simply so that their work and their art can be the same thing. That's one of the purest Wobbly things my dad taught me as a kid — the best work is work that is your art.

We need rank and file factory workers who make fun of the boss with cartoon and



using their art to smash reality since 1983.

I raise my union made beer in a Brechtian toast to the first sixteen years of Huck-Konopacki cartoons helping to build a new reality out of the ashes of this mess, and in hope of reaching some new reality in the next sixteen. Gary and Mike, I'll see you on the barricades, or in the pub anyway. Thanks again for all you do making my work as an organizer easier.

Derek Akshun

Derek Akshun is a former and future columnist for *Wage Slave World News* who freely admits he's biased in reviewing this book.

Fellow Workers!

Some of us here at the IW Collective in Detroit have been discussing some ideas for a new logo for the paper. The one we have is drastically out of date and has a look to it that tends to drive people away rather than interest or attract. We decided we would be open to submissions and/or suggestions so please send us any designs you may come up with.

Send designs to:

IW Logo, 3570 W. Vernor, Detroit, MI 48216

Books for Rebel Workers

IWWHistory

The Centralia Tragedy of 1919: Elmer Smith and the Wobblies
by Tom Copeland. \$17.50

Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson. Edited by D. Roediger
Autobiographical reflections and philosophy from a veteran Wobbly who bridged the generations. \$10.

The Great Bisbee Deportation of July 12, 1917 by Rob Hanson.
What was the IWW doing that so threatened the establishment of Bisbee, Arizona that it forced them to take such drastic measures to try to bring the union to a halt? Hanson brings the events alive with this easy to read booklet. \$2.00.

Solidarity Forever—An oral history of the IWW. Edited by Steward Bird, Dan Georgakas & Deborah Shaffer.
A compilation of interviews with former and veteran Wobblies. Badly transcribed but interesting reading. \$11.

Rebel Girl, the autobiography of Elizabeth Gurly Flynn. \$9.95.

One Big Union. by IWW.
The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. \$2.00.

Break Their Haughty Power: Joe Murphy in the Heyday of the Wobblies by Eugene Nelson.
A fictionalized biography of the many varied trials and tribulations of IWW member Joe Murphy between 1919 and 1924. \$12.

The General Strike.
Ralph Chaplin's musical version of the IWW Preamble notes "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." He develops that idea in this essay. \$2.00

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer
by Staughton Lynd.
Revised and updated, this classic self-help manual is subtitled: "building solidarity while staying clear of the law." \$10.

IWW Organizing Manual
(2nd Edition)
A guide to building the IWW on the job. \$5.

A New Union Vision
Arthur J. Miller reflects on the need for revolutionary unions today. \$2.

IWW Little Red Songbook
(36th Ed.)
103 labor songs from around the world, with music. Includes classics and new songs by Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Charlie King, Utah Phillips, etc. \$10.

Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology. Edited by Joyce Kornbluh
A collection of stories, poems, songs and cartoons from the English-language Wobbly press. Just reissued. \$26.

Fellow Workers, Remember!
At least 1,300 Wobblies were locked up under 'espionage' and 'criminal syndicalism' frame-ups between 1917 and 1920; this collection documents their plight and IWW efforts to fight the persecution. \$5.

Juice is Stranger Than Friction
by T-Bone Slim.
Edited by Franklin Rosemont. Selected writings from a working stiff, hobo and irreconcilable revolutionary; utterly unqualified in any literary respectability. \$9.

Memoirs of a Wobbly
by Henry E. McGuckin.
This lively narrative by an old-time Wobbly is unlike any other book on the IWW. Although "Mac" knew many of the best known Wobs of his day, his purpose here is not to discuss prominent personalities or world famous events, but to tell of the tens of thousands of militant rank & filers who, in the 1910's, made the IWW one of the grandest labor unions the world has ever seen. \$5.

A Little Working Class Sense
by Gilbert Mers.
In a series of essays that are long overdue this working class Wobbly breaks down the class issue in a way that is simple and concise. Highly recommended for those at the bottom of the capitalist system. \$2.

1923 IWW Songbook
Facsimile reprint of IWW songs. \$5.

Rebel Voices
IWW songs sung by IU 630 Wobs
Tape \$10

We Have Fed You All For 1,000 Years
Utah Phillips sings IWW songs.
Tape \$10

Baseball Caps
Black globe on red cap. Adjustable sizing. \$9.

IWW Buttons
Fire Your Boss. \$1
Black Cat/Direct Action. \$1.
IWW Globe—circled by the motto "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." Black & Red. \$1.50.

Posters by Carlos Cortez
Lucy Parson, Ben Fletcher, Joe Hill or Mother Jones. \$25.

Labor History

Strike! by Jeremy Brecher
A history of U.S. workers' struggle from workers' point of view. Argues class upsurges are based in everyday life and rank & file initiative. \$22.

Dishing It Out: Waitresses and Their Unions in the 20th Century by Dorothy Cobble. \$7.50.

The New Class War: Reagan's Attack on the Welfare State and Its Consequences by F. Piven & R. Cloward. \$4.25.

Homestead: The Glory & Tragedy of an American Steel Town
by William Serrin.
Chronicles the 1892 strike, the boom times and the city's slow death in the 1970's and 80's. pub'd at \$25. Our price \$12.

The Rise of Public Woman
by Glenna Mathews.
Woman's power and woman's place in the U.S. 1630-1970. \$12.

American Women in the Progressive Era
by Dorothy & Carl Schneider.
Change, challenge and the struggle for women's rights. \$10.

Proletarians of the North: Mexican Industrial Workers in the Midwest by Zaragosa Vargas.
Compelling history of the struggles of Mexican workers who migrated to the Midwest between the First World War and the Great Depression. \$15.

We Are All Leaders: The Alternative Unionism of the Early 1930's by Staughton Lynd.
Workers were taking charge of our own destiny before the State and labor fakers intervened. Includes Wob Mike Kozura's account of coal miners seizing the mines to operate them themselves. \$21.95.

Work Without End: Abandoning Shorter Hours for the Right to Work by Benjamin Hunnicutt. \$15.

The American Labor Movement: A New Beginning by Sam Dolgoff.
A veteran IWW organizer traces the history of labor militancy and offers his vision of building a new, radical, rank & file labor movement. \$5.

Sacco & Vanzetti, The Anarchist Background by Paul Avrich.
Hardcover, 265 pages. \$15.

Haymarket Scrapbook. Edited by Dave Roediger & Franklin Rosemont. \$15.

The Revolution Within the Revolution: Workers' Control in Rural Portugal by Nancy Barneo.
A resurgent, revolutionary agrarian movement during "The Revolution of the Carnations" and its aftermath. \$15.

Work and Labor by Judy Gail.
An eclectic narrative weaving together stories and songs to create a kid-friendly history of work. \$25.

Queen of Bohemia: The Life of Louise Bryant by Mary Dearborn.
A pioneering foreign correspondent, a fervent crusader for social causes, and a champion of sexual freedom. \$13.50.

Emma Goldman in Exile: The Russian Revolution to the Spanish Civil War by Alice Wexler. \$14.

Autobiography of Mother Jones.
Foreword by M. LeSeur. Intro by Clarence Darrow. Tribute by Debs. Afterword by Fred Thompson. \$15.

A Generation of Boomers: Patterns of Railroad Labor Conflict in 19th Century America by Shelton Stromquist. \$10.

A People Betrayed—November 1918: A German Revolution by Alfred Döblin. \$16.

American Rubber Workers and Organized Labor by Daniel Nelson.
An in-depth look at the rubber workers struggles, victories and contributions to the birth of the modern American labor movement. \$9.

The Case for Leonard Peltier
A must read for anyone desiring to understand the modern American Indian Movement. \$3.

Classroom's First by Jason Justice.
A good overview of the Oakland teachers' strike and their bold stand against the establishment. \$2.

Colorado's War on Militant Unionism by George G. Suggs, Jr.
By far the best book available on the great hard-rock miners' labor strikes during 1903 and 1904. \$4.

The Fight Against Shutdowns: Youngstown's Steel Mill Closings by Staughton Lynd.
This book honestly puts forward the facts on a day to day and crisis by crisis basis. It lays out what can happen to a community and the interplay of forces that impact our real lives. \$10.

The Flivver King: A Story of Ford-America by Upton Sinclair.
Two stories unfold at the same time: those of Henry Ford and of Ford worker Abner Shutt. A telling account of the realities and discrepancies of life in Ford-America, told as only Upton Sinclair could. \$7.

Hard-Pressed in the Heartland by Peter Rachleff.
This account P-9's struggle against Hormel & the UFCW suggests the possibility of a militant, rank & file, community based unionism. This is the story of the Hormel strike and what it means to the future of the labor movement. \$5.

Mask of Democracy: Labor Suppression in Mexico Today by Dan LaBotz.
Using scores of interviews with Mexican rank & file workers, labor officials, women's organizations, lawyers and human rights' activists, LaBotz illustrates the precarious position of workers in the Mexican economy in the 1990's. \$12.

Roll The Union On: A Pictorial History of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union by H. L. Mitchell.
One of the most exciting and inspiring stories of the modern American labor movement; the story of the STFU and its long and bitter struggle for a better life for the down-trodden sharecroppers of the south. \$15.

Where the Sun Never Shines: A History of America's Bloody Coal Industry by Priscilla Long.
A captivating and moving account of one of the most dramatic and influential periods of industrial history. \$10.

Available from IWW Branches

T-SHIRTS

Wildcat, says 'Direct Action!' above graphic. Black on white. (M, L, XL) \$12 each, SF GMB, PO Box 40485, San Francisco CA 94140

IWW Globe, black on red. (L, XL) \$17 each, P&L Printing, 2298 Clay Dr. Denver, C) 80211

Viva EZLN, red & black on white. (L only) \$12 each, Detroit GMB, 3570 W. Vernor, Detroit, MI 48216

OUTSIDE U.S.

Canadian Little Red Songbook \$5
36th Edition Int'l Songbook \$10
c/o Joe Chang, 137 Roncesvalles #208, Toronto, ONT M6R 2L2

British Isles

36th Edition Int'l Songbook £4, post-paid. A selection of literature is available from:

IWW, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB

ORDER FORM:

Date: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Postal Code _____

Quantity	Item	Price

Mail to: IWW Literature
103 W. Michigan
Ypsilanti, MI 48197 USA

total of above _____
add 10% shipping _____

U.S. Funds Only

TOTAL ORDER: \$ _____

McUnion—A Saga of Intrigue & Suspense in Technicolor

The fast food industry is a big employer in the US, and it's workers are virtually unorganized. The pay is low, the schedules erratic and the work is tedious. For the most part, fast food workers have seldom joined together in union due to things such as high turnover and resignation to the job environment. Factors such as these have made outside organizing very difficult, and big unions in this country have made little effort to help workers build unions.

Myself and several other Wobblies who work at a McDonald's in Olympia, WA, are trying to change our situation. I started there three months ago (in February), and after two weeks of hard, degrading, understaffed and underpaid work, I started talking to the other employees about organizing. At the same time, to my good fortune, several other Wobs were looking for employment so they donned the Golden Arches uniform and joined in the fun! After one meeting of the workers who showed interest, we discussed issues in the workplace we felt needed to be addressed, and formulated a petition.

After that meeting, rumors circulated widely, and a few days later the boss had been informed of a few workers starting to organize. The next day when I came in for my shift, there was a benefits policy posted in the crew room. Management denied it had anything to do with our activities.

Previously only two people in the store had had benefits of any kind, and that was a big issue with us. It's an expensive and extremely limited plan, but it satisfied some people. At this time the phone list of our co-workers was "misplaced," and access to the office had become restricted.

We continued to talk to other workers and to collect signatures. Sides were being taken. We discovered that a couple of workers who

we thought were on our side were secretly reporting back to management. Management told people they could be fired for signing the petition and started cutting hours of known organizers. After a couple of weeks of this the owner of the store posted a letter in the crew room addressing the union, saying although it is legal to sign, workers should come hear "our side of the story" first. The owner expressed her "disappointment" with the employees during several paid employee meetings. I realized this is

Our branch also sponsored an event on May Day which featured an organizer and rank-and-file worker from the Canadian Auto Workers who spoke on organizing in the fast food industry. Their union has organized several KFC's, Starbucks' coffees and a McDonald's restaurant in British Columbia.

One of the greatest difficulties is the resignation to the poor job environment that some workers had. "It's McDonald's, what do you expect?" one worker told me after

or accept the copy I tried to give her, saying "I will not listen to anything having to do with the union, but if you have a personal issue with the job I'm more than willing to listen". The next day she called me, as well as several other workers, into the office individually to discuss the work environment and the new benefits package. I told her that the benefits package was a nice offer, but a greater help would be better pay. ON my wages working full time, I couldn't afford the coverage.

At the beginning of this month I submitted my one month notice of resignation, as I'm moving to California in June. When I came to work two days after the boss received my letter she handed me a check for the remainder of my scheduled time and told me she didn't need me to come in because she wanted to "use my hours in the shop to train other people". Basically, I am being kept safely out of the shop and I cannot take legal action on the grounds of lost wages or unfair termination. Also, another key organizer has been terminated for unreliability. Though it is within the company's policy to do so, typically management would only suspend workers for unreliability. There are still workers who support our efforts, but as a result of these two terminations, we have lost a lot of momentum.

We are continuing our efforts at this McDonald's and the issues in the workplace aren't going to disappear, but we could use some help. Keep an eye out for the Coveted McVoluntary assessment stamps, which are in the works and any persons willing to actively organize please contact Jared, Jade, or Sara at (360) 753-2397 and apply at the West Olympia "McTropolis" Today!

For a World Without Bosses!
Sara Cory and Jared Souza



photo contributed by California Department of Corrections

where McDonald's has the upper hand; we had limited opportunity to talk with other workers on company time and they had as much access to their workers as they wanted. We then decided to write a newsletter explaining what exactly our union was and why we needed one, with a copy of our rights as stated in Sec. 7 of the National Labor Relations Act, and continued to spread the word.

mentioning the fact that we're getting minimum wage to perform several different jobs at once (McDonald's company policy is to have labor costs under %15 of expenses, and as a result are chronically understaffed). Also, a high turnover makes it difficult to makes it difficult to maintain a steady number of people in the shop who are signed.

About two weeks ago I tried to present the petition to the owner. She would not read it

May Day Protesters Take Arrests to Close the SOA

May Day, Close the SOA!

On May Day, 1999, some 2000 or so folks marched on the Pentagon in an act of international solidarity with labor and community activists in countries currently under attack by their own military. These special military forces are often trained right here in the U.S. at the School of the Americas, located in Fort Benning, GA at U.S. taxpayers expense and as part of the U.S.'s overall foreign policy. These special forces are especially effective at shutting down labor organizing campaigns by targeting labor activists through terror tactics which include kidnapping, torture and murder.

The rally on May 1 was held at Lafayette Park, across from the White House, from noon to 5p.m. Speakers directed the crowd to remember those "disappeared" and called for an end to the funding for the SOA, demanding its immediate closure. Several musicians lent their talent to the event, including folksingers David Rovics and Pete Seeger. The atmosphere was defiant and celebratory.

As the rally was going on in the park, some groups had set up appointments to visit congresspeople. Detroit Wobs joined others from Michigan in harassing Sen. Levin's aide (it seems that the Senator is under the convenient impression that the abuses and torture have stopped and so therefore refused to see anyone from the delegation). The befuddled flunky whined that "newer" examples of abuse traced to

SOA graduates were necessary before the Senator would believe that the SOA graduates were still terrorizing their own people. Delegation members were speechless, but left the hapless yutz with contact numbers and written reports of recent atrocities.

On the following day, Sunday, the organizers of SOA Watch offered non-violence training, orientation and peace-keeper training sessions in preparation for the following day's civil disobedience action. Many groups from around the country participated, including labor, peace and community organizations.

On the morning of May 3rd, over 2000 people assembled at 6:40 a.m. in the Pentagon parking lot. Along for the parade were an assortment of giant puppets made by local D.C. artists. Clinton, Congress, military suppliers and a 6 foot tall skull under a graduation cap all accompanied the marchers, many of them drumming, many of them wearing death masks as they made their way to the Pentagon parade grounds.

When the march arrived at the Pentagon, a street theater piece was enacted in which the death machine of the military was dismantled and sacred soil (brought by various participants from all over) was poured on it. "¡Nunca Mas!" ("Never Again!") was chanted by the crowd as a promise and a warning. A few people walked up to the police line separating the demonstrators from the Pentagon and requested to speak with Secretary Cohen. When their request was

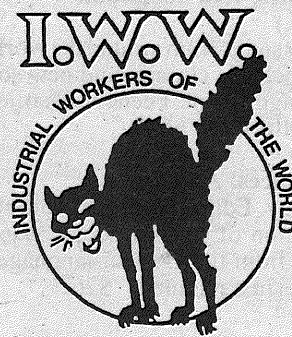
refused, about 60 some people lay down on the ground to represent those who have been murdered or "disappeared" as others in the crowd poured paint around and on their bodies. The "painters" were immediately arrested (guess the Pentagon prefers to do its own "whitewashing") and the Pentagon called in workers to begin spraying down the ground and the demonstrators who had been painted as they still lay on the ground. The demonstration broke up as the first man arrested had a heart attack and it was deemed necessary by the organizers to clear the way for the ambulance.

Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

Real Democracy! All policy decisions are made by referendum. The IWW has just one (modestly) paid officer, the General Secretary-Treasurer. The 7-member General Executive Board is elected annually by the entire membership. All officers may be recalled by referendum. IWW workplaces and branches make their own decisions about bargaining and strategy.

To Join mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and first month's dues to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under \$1,000: \$6 per month; Income \$1,000-2,000: \$12 monthly; Over \$2,000: Dues \$18. Initiation Fee is same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as \$12.00

<input type="checkbox"/>	I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.
Name: _____ Occupation: _____	
Address: _____ City: _____	
State/Prov.: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____	
Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker	



For more information about future activities to close the SOA, contact Tobi Hanna-Davies at (734) 663-1870 ICPJ